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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 6 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES AND 2 PAGES OF TIMES SCHOOL

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

FBI director Kash Patel lashes out at Democratic lawmaker Chris Van Hollen at a budget hearing, calling allegations that he drinks excessively on the job and has been unreachable to his staff at times 'unequivocally, categorically false'. 'I'll not be tarnished by baseless allegations,' he tells Senator, P 18

French authorities confine over 1,700 passengers and crew on a British cruise ship after an elderly passenger dies and dozens suffer upset stomachs, say health officials, P 18

Star shuttlers PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth progress to the singles second round with straight-game wins on a mixed day for India at $500,000 Thailand Open Super 500 tournament

Ex-hockey goalkeeper and junior men's team coach **PR Sreejesh expresses his frustration over being removed from his role after 17 months,** questioning Hockey India's preference for foreign coaches, a charge rejected by nat'l body, P 20

Govt hikes duty on gold, silver from 6% to 15% in bid to lower demand

Gold Price Jumps ₹10k/10g, Silver Up By ₹19k/Kg

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Days after PM Narendra Modi's appeal to reduce gold purchases, the finance ministry on Wednesday raised customs duty on the yellow metal and silver to 15% from 6% in a bid to lower the demand for precious metals.

The move pushed up domestic spot market for gold by Rs 9,000-10,000 to about Rs 1.6 lakh per 10 grams, while silver was up about Rs 18,000-19,000 a kg to around Rs 2.9 lakh. Prices of exchange traded funds (ETFs) on these metals also showed a strong uptick on bourses. Duty on platinum was also hiked from 6.4% to 15.4%.

Jewellers are looking towards a moderation in demand and are seeking to devise ways, such as promoting exchange of old ornaments, to keep businesses going.

India is the second largest buyer of gold, a favourite with households, which use jewellery and coins to park surplus cash, but it usually ends up locked up in vaults. It is the second largest commodity import after crude and the value of its imports shot up 24% to $72 billion during the last fiscal year due to higher prices, even as quantity was down 5% to 721 tonnes, indicating some moderation in demand.

▶Forex reserves, P 17

PM CUTS DOWN CONVOY SIZE

- PM Modi has significantly reduced his convoy size, days after he **appealed for cutting fuel consumption**, says govt
- **Re weakens to record low of 95.8** against dollar, slips 7p from previous day's close on persistent external pressures and firm global cues
- India may **need to raise fuel prices** if Iran conflict drags on, says **RBI governor** Sanjay Malhotra
- **Air India to cut 145 more int'l flights** in June-Aug, including a no. of long hauls, in bid to stem losses amid sharp hike in jet fuel price

Jewellery on display at a Srinagar store

In UAE, PM to ink pacts on LPG, petro reserves

New Delhi: Two important MoUs in the areas of LPG and strategic petroleum reserves are likely to be concluded during PM Modi's stopover in UAE Friday on his way to Europe, official sources said. Govt said that energy security will be a key focus area of Modi's 3-hour stopover in the country.

The UAE is a key energy supplier for India, its fourth largest source of crude and second largest source of LNG and LPG. Modi will depart on a five-nation tour, including to the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy, on Friday.

MEA said Modi will discuss bilateral ties, energy cooperation and regional issues with UAE President Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. India has a comprehensive strategic partnership with UAE and 4.5 million Indians live in the country. Modi is also likely to reiterate his condemnation of attacks on UAE, expressing solidarity with the president. TNN

▶Araghchi in Delhi; Iran to let more ships pass, P 5

No 'austerity' on capex plans: Govt

Govt clarified that it's going ahead with capital expenditure, development spend and subsidy payments, and no budget cuts were planned. Officials argued there was no plan for "austerity", which suggests budget cuts, reduced govt spending, lower subsidies and fiscal tightening. TNN

CBI arrests 6 in NEET leak case, charts paper trail to Raj family

Q Paper Hard Copy Was Procured In Pune, Circulated Via Couriers, WA

Rajshekhar Jha & Dishank Purohit | TNN

New Delhi/Jaipur/Pune: The CBI arrested six suspects Wednesday and detained four others across states in the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case, tracing a chain of distribution that investigators believe began with a hard copy of the question paper being procured in Pune and circulated through couriers, WhatsApp groups and coaching institutes in Rajasthan, Haryana and Maharashtra.

The arrested suspects include three members of a Rajasthan family identified as Dinesh Biwal, his brother Mangilal Biwal and the latter's son Vikas Biwal, all residents of Jamwa-Ramgarh in Jaipur district. The other three are Yash Yadav of Gurgaon, Shubham Khairnar from Nashik and Dhananjay from Ahilyanagar.

Pune police detained two Ayurveda practitioners, a beauty parlour owner and an engineering student based on information provided by CBI and handed all four over to the agency for questioning. A CBI team visited the NTA headquarters in Delhi Wednesday to collect documents pertaining to the May 3 test that has since been cancelled.

▶Biwal family, P 12

ABVP members scuffle with RAF personnel in Delhi Wednesday

Most Sundays booked, retest tough to slot

Mumbai: Finding a workable date for a re-NEET is emerging as the immediate hurdle, with most Sundays over the coming weeks already committed to major national and state-level entrance examinations, placing the academic calendar under strain. Since the exam is held in govt schools and colleges, scheduling it on a Sunday ensures availability of a large number of centres, **reports Hemali Chhapia.**

Educationists say the ripple effect of a delay is unavoidable. Even in an optimistic scenario—mid-June re-test and results by mid-July—the counselling cycle is likely to begin only by mid-August, pushing the start of the MBBS academic session back by at least two months.

▶Legal hurdles, P 12

Akhilesh half-brother Prateek, 38, dies

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's half-brother Prateek, 38, died Wednesday. The post-mortem revealed pulmonary thromboembolism, a condition in which a large blood clot blocks blood to the lungs, causing the heart to fail. P 6

CBI director gets one-year extension

A day after Rahul Gandhi gave a formal dissent note on the process of selection of the next CBI chief, current agency director Praveen Sood was given a one-year extension on Wednesday. TNN

Vijay sails through floor test 144-22 as 25 AIADMK MLAs vote for him

Chennai: Transitioning from a party chief scrambling for the crucial support of 10 MLAs to a chief minister winning a confidence motion by a 144-22 majority on Wednesday, C Joseph Vijay has passed the first litmus test in the assembly.

The result was brought about by DMK MLAs walking out of the House and 25 AIADMK MLAs led by S P Velumani and C Ve Shanmugam voting in favour of the motion. Four PMK legislators and the only BJP MLA abstained from voting. "I thank the people and the MLAs who voted for me," Vijay said. Governor R V Arlekar had set May 13 as the deadline for the motion.

The 22 MLAs who voted against the motion were from the AIADMK camp supporting party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami. Congress, CPM, CPI, VCK and IUML legislators, along with the lone AMMK member, backed the TVK govt.

Opposition leader Udhayanidhi Stalin said DMK MLAs were staying away from voting to facilitate a majority for the TVK govt. DMDK MLA Premalatha Vijayakant also walked out. TVK's Tirupattur MLA R Seenivasa Sethupathy did not cast his vote following a high court ruling in a petition filed by his DMK rival challenging his one-vote victory. TNN

▶Backing TVK..., P 12

▶Vijay revokes astrologer's posting as OSD, P 12
▶ISI asst prof arrested for FB post on EVMs, P 12

Assam clears draft UCC bill, to be tabled on 26th

The Assam cabinet has cleared the draft of the Uniform Civil Code, which will be tabled in assembly on May 26. The code, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, would focus on four key areas: minimum age for marriage, prohibiting polygamy, ensuring equal property rights for sons and daughters, and mandating registration of live-in relationships, marriages and divorces. The code exempts state's tribal population. P5

CBSE Class 12 pass percentage at 7-yr low, 90% club falls below 1L

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New Delhi: The success rate in the CBSE Class 12 exams, which has been dropping since the post-Covid year of 2022, has fallen to 85.2% — a seven-year low, and just above the 2019 pass percentage of 83%. Girls once again outperformed boys across the country, registering a pass percentage of 88.9 against 82.1 among boys. Last year, girls had recorded a pass percentage of 91.6, while boys stood at 85.7. Transgender candidates maintained a 100% pass percentage for the second consecutive year.

The number of high scorers also declined this year. While nearly 1.1 lakh students had scored above 90% in 2025, the figure dropped to 94,028 in 2026. Those securing 95% and above fell from 24,867 last year to 17,113. Thiruvananthapuram was the best-performing region CBSE in the country with a pass percentage of 95.6, followed by Chennai at 93.8 and Bengaluru at 93.2.

▶Results in W Asia, P 6

K'taka pass rate at three-year low

Karnataka recorded a disappointing Class 12 CBSE performance, with a 93.1% pass rate, its lowest in three years. The state ranked 8th nationally. Officials linked the drop to stricter On Screen Marking system, which reduces leniency. P 3

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SCAN TO KNOW MORE

Inauguration

Chief Guest
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Guest of Honour
Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Dr. M.C. Sudhakar
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education
Government of Karnataka

In the August Presence of

Sri Priyank M Kharge
Hon'ble Minister
IT and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Departments
Government of Karnataka

Dr. Sharanaparakash Rudrappa Patil
Hon'ble Minister
for Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood and Medical Education
Government of Karnataka

Sri M.B. Patil
Hon'ble Minister
Department of Large & medium Industries & Infrastructure Development
Government of Karnataka

Sri N. Cheluvarayaswamy
Hon'ble Minister
of Agriculture Department
Government of Karnataka

Program Chair Smt. Khushboo Goel Chowdhary, IAS Secretary to Government Higher Education Department Government of Karnataka

Central Themes of Discussion

- Democratizing AI Skills Across All Disciplines
- Scaling Innovation from Research to Market
- Building Semiconductor & Advanced Manufacturing Excellence
- Strengthening Financial Sector Talent Competitiveness
- Expanding Quality Education Beyond Metropolitan Centers
- Embedding Professional & Interpersonal Skills in Curriculum
- Nurturing Student Entrepreneurship & Startup Ecosystems
- Bridging the Academic-Industry Gap for Workforce Readiness

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#CampusToCareer

The LaLiT Ashok, Bengaluru

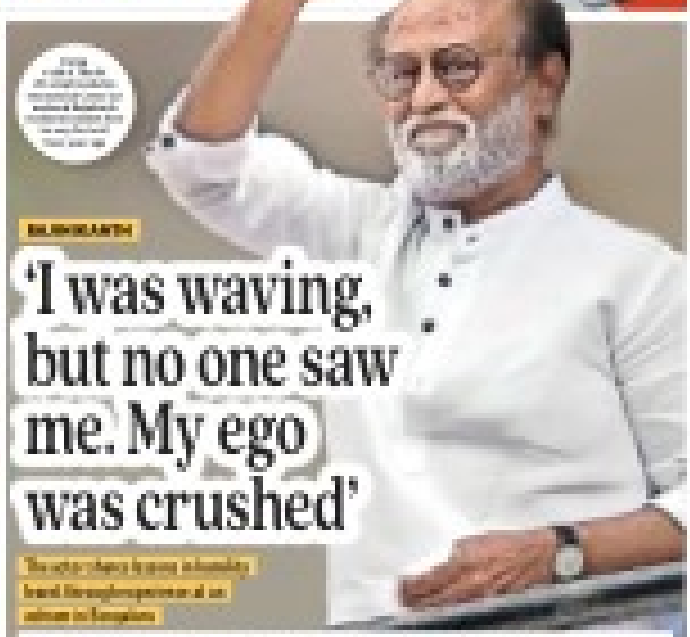
Bangalore Times

Alia's coral couture

RAJINIKANTH

'I was waving, but no one saw me. My ego was crushed'

The actor shares a funny anecdote from his struggle days at an autowala in Bangalore

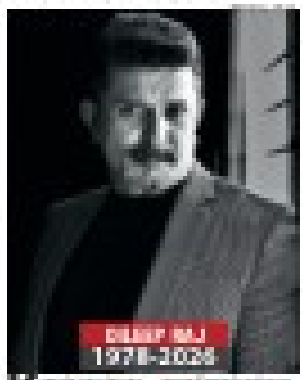


WHERE'S THE RUSH FOR THE FOOTBALL WORLD CUP?

P8

ANOTHER YOUNG LIFE LOST

Kannada actor Dileep Raj dies after a massive heart attack



'Not glorifying gangsters or crime': HC go-ahead to docu on Bishnoi

Punjab & Haryana HC finds no merit in stopping the release of the Bishnoi documentary, but directs a few edits to be changed

- The high court dismissed the petition by the Bishnoi gang member, who had sought a ban on the documentary's release
- The documentary features interviews of Bishnoi and his associates
- It is scheduled to be released next month on Netflix

"Also in jail, the message of the documentary is that words of gangsters is very short and it spoils the lives of many persons

– Justice Sudeepti Sharma

Father & son who missed Chicago flight win ₹1.4L compensation

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Bengaluru: What began as a routine trip to Chicago soon spiralled into an overnight nightmare for two Jayanagar residents, eventually leading to a legal battle.

The episode dates back to Jan 4, 2024, when 68-year-old Satish Nagarajan Iyengar and his 38-year-old son, Rupesh, booked Air India round-trip tickets between Bengaluru and Chicago for Rs 2.9 lakh. Their onward journey was scheduled for Jan 18, with the return flight planned for Jan 22.

DIVERSION DRAMA

On Jan 18, the duo checked in at Bengaluru airport and received two boarding passes each, while their baggage was tagged directly to Chicago. Their flight departed Bengaluru at 9.10pm and was slated to arrive in Delhi at 11.55pm, where they were to board a connecting flight to Chicago at 2.35am.

The flight was normal until it entered Delhi airspace, when the captain announced a diversion to Jaipur, citing low visibility. However, the duo contended that Delhi's CAT IIIB-compliant runways were operational and the aircraft was equipped for landing in low visibility, alleging the diversion occurred due to pilots lacking CAT IIIB certification. The aircraft landed in Jaipur, where passengers waited for more than an hour while a CAT IIIB-certified crew was flown in. The flight then reached Delhi at 1.52am, leaving less than 45 minutes for the connection.

CONSUMER IS KING

Despite assurances that they would make the connection, they were met with placards and escorted through a priority channel. However, they were made to wait more than 30 minutes, their baggage was returned and the Chicago leg was cancelled, citing late arrival of AI 808. Air India's Integrated Operations Control Centre (IOCC) later confirmed seats were available but said boarding had closed.

For Satish, a senior citizen, the situation turned distressing. No food, water, seating or hotel accommodation was provided, nor any timeline for resolution. After a sleepless night at the airport, they booked a hotel at their own expense. The next morning, Air India issued tickets to Bengaluru and said reimbursement would be provided.

AIRLINE APATHY MAKES THEIR TRIP TRAUMATIC

On Jan 21, they filed a refund request. On Feb 5, Air India confirmed a full refund within 7-14 days. However, by March 5, only Rs 2.4 lakh was credited, leaving Rs 55,328 pending. Despite acknowledgement and follow-ups, payment was not made. The issue was escalated to the ministry of civil aviation on July 26, but they received no response. The duo filed a consumer complaint on July 17, 2025.

In its defence, Air India cited operational and safety requirements for the diversion, stating low-visibility procedures were mandatory. It argued boarding had closed by the time they arrived at the gate, making acceptance impossible. It also said an alternative routing via London was offered but declined, contending that passengers who opted for a refund could not later claim additional damages.

On refunds, Air India stated that out of the total fare of Rs 1.5 lakh per ticket, in addition Rs 11,145 had been refunded for one ticket, while Rs 27,664 and Rs 16,519, respectively, remained under process or pending approval. The airline maintained that the delay in crediting the balance amounts was due to routine reconciliation and settlement procedures and not due to any mala fide intent.

The commission observed that the flight diversion was not due to weather alone but stemmed from the crew's lack of CAT IIIB certification, an internal lapse that could not be treated as force majeure to escape liability. It held that DGCA exemption clauses could not justify leaving a senior citizen stranded overnight without food, water, rest or accommodation. The partial refund of Rs 2,43,774 was treated as acknowledgement of liability, making the withholding of Rs 55,328 indefensible. It also upheld Rs 33,186 as legitimate damages and concluded that Air India's actions constituted a clear deficiency in service.

The bench, comprising president Ramachandra MS and members Nandini H Kumbhar and Savitha Airani, on April 29 ordered Air India to refund Rs 55,328 and pay Rs 33,186 for damages incurred at an interest at 6%. It directed the airline to pay Rs 20,000 as compensation for deficiency in service, Rs 25,000 for pain and suffering, and Rs 10,000 in litigation costs.

Audi kills scooterist

Bengaluru: A speeding Audi car rear-ended a gearless scooter near Chikkajala junction, killing the rider and injuring two others. Mahesh Kumar, 40, is the victim, while his wife Kala M, 35, and their minor daughter are recovering in hospital. Mahesh and his wife worked in a garment factory, police said.

Residents of Hunasamaranahalli, the three were riding back home after attending a wedding reception, police said. "CCTV footage shows the Audi car is involved in the accident, but we couldn't read the license plate" an investigating officer said.

In another accident at Kote cross in Devanahalli, a rashly driven car ran over a motorist. The victim is M Shekhar, a driver. TNN

Revenue Can Be Used As Incentives For Staff Opting For Public Transport

Pay to park at tech parks? Police pitch pricing fix to ease ORR mess

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Bengaluru: In another attempt to tackle the chronic congestion choking the city's Outer Ring Road (ORR), Bengaluru traffic police (BTP) have proposed that tech parks explore introducing paid parking to discourage tech company employees from driving private vehicles to work.

The proposal was mooted during a stakeholder consultation Wednesday involving traffic police officials, civic agencies, Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) representatives and tech park officials as authorities searched for solutions to ease pressure on the city's busiest IT corridor.

According to BTP, free parking inside tech parks has quietly become one of the biggest incentives for employees to continue using personal vehicles despite worsening traffic conditions on the ORR stretch.

"If something is offered for free, we tend to take it. When you put a price on it, there is a probability that people might not," joint commissioner (traffic) Karthik Reddy said while underlining paid parking inside tech parks. According to BTP estimates, 8-10 lakh commuters travel daily through the corridor, which houses over 500 tech companies and 30 tech parks.

Under the proposal, companies could charge employees for parking private vehicles while rewarding those who use BMTC buses, Metro services or carpooling options. Officials also suggested that revenue generated through parking fees could potentially be redirected as incentives for employees opting for public transport.

The move comes as Bengaluru's ORR continues to buckle under mounting traffic pressure, especially along the Iblur–Sarjapur Road–KR Puram stretch. Traffic police believe reducing dependency on single-occupancy vehicles could significantly improve traffic flow on the perpetually gridlocked ORR.

FIVE-POINT FORMULA TO PUT BRAKES ON GROWING URBAN GRIDLOCK

ENCOURAGE CARPOOLING
According to police, one of the biggest contributors to traffic congestion is the prevalence of single-occupancy vehicles, with officials claiming that a majority of cars entering tech parks carry only one passenger despite being multi-seater vehicles. To address this, companies were urged to actively encourage voluntary carpooling among employees, which officials described as one of the easiest and quickest ways to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

START TECH PARK BUSES
BTP proposed bus pooling at a tech park level, where large campuses such as Ecospace or Ecoworld could organise common transport for employees travelling from similar localities instead of companies operating separate systems. Officials said this could significantly cut vehicle numbers entering the corridor.

CAR-FREE DAY
Among other recommendations, BTP proposed a monthly corporate car-free day, where a set of companies would encourage employees to avoid bringing private vehicles to work on designated days. Officials argued that even a 5–10% reduction in vehicles could considerably ease congestion along the ORR.

BMTC BUS STATIONS INSIDE TECH PARKS
Tech parks were also asked to allocate dedicated space for BMTC buses to originate or terminate inside campuses, reducing long walks from bus stops. Traffic police urged companies to revive the use of BMTC chartered buses. Before the pandemic, nearly 560 BMTC chartered buses operated for tech firms, but the number has now dropped sharply to just 105 despite offices reopening fully.

STAGGERED TIMINGS
Another key proposal involved staggered office entry and exit timings, modelled on systems followed in Electronics City. Officials argued that congestion peaks between 9am and 10am and again between 5pm and 7pm, and dispersing employee movement across different timings.

ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE WOES FIRST, SAYS COMPANIES' ASSOCIATION

Welcoming traffic police's efforts , the Outer Ring Road Companies' Association (ORRCA) said Wednesday that behavioural changes such as reducing private vehicle usage cannot happen overnight without major infrastructure improvements.

Representing companies across the ORR tech corridor, ORRCA said the stretch differs from other employment hubs because of varied work schedules, night shifts and global time-zone dependencies, making uniform mobility solutions difficult.

"There is no denying that single-car usage behaviour has to change and people should travel together in pools. But this is not a homogeneous unit. People work across different time zones, customers and work models," said Manas Das, president of ORRCA.

The association said employees have developed commuting habits over several years due to inadequate public transport, poor road conditions and weak last-mile connectivity, making sudden shifts unrealistic. While companies are willing to encourage public transport and adopt mobility incentives, ORRCA stressed that infrastructure upgrades must happen simultaneously.

Among its key demands are smaller BMTC buses that can enter tech parks, round-the-clock bus services, safer bus stops with shelters, pothole-free roads and stronger last-mile connectivity. The association also urged authorities to improve feeder roads to the ORR and prioritise mobility upgrades in six to eight months as Metro connectivity nears completion.

Govt offers 100-day window to regularise 1 lakh properties

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Bengaluru: In a major relief to owners of unauthorised houses built on notified land acquired by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), govt announced a fresh 100-day window, beginning June 15, to regularise such properties at half the earlier cost, aiming to bring over one lakh disputed properties under the legal framework.

The decision, announced by Bengaluru development minister DK Shivakumar, applies to built-up properties covered under Clause 38D of BDA regulations — unauthorised buildings constructed before 2008 on notified BDA-acquired land and having civic amenities such as electricity and water connections.

Officials said more than one lakh such properties have been identified across 65 BDA layouts in Bengaluru, excluding Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Arkavathy Layout and Shivaram Karanth Layout, where acquisition happened after 2008 and, therefore, do not qualify under the scheme.

Owners can apply from June 15 for three months (close to 100 days). "We will give another three months for processing and six months to complete payment. By June 2027, the process should be over. If property owners apply within the three-month window, the rates will be relaxed by 50% for regularisation," said the deputy CM.

The move applies to unauthorised buildings constructed before 2008 on notified BDA-acquired land and having civic amenities such as electricity and water connections

BDA commissioner Manivannan P told **TOI** after the time-frame given for the regularisation process is over, all such unauthorised constructions will be bulldozed.

The move comes after an earlier regularisation attempt in 2020 received a poor response. Under the previous framework, property owners were required to pay charges, ranging from 10% to 50% of the guidance value depending on plot size — 10% for sites below 600 sqft, 25% for 600-1,200 sqft, 40% for 1,200-2,400 sqft and 50% for properties between 2,400 and 4,000 sqft. However, only around 600 applications were received, and none were regularised before the scheme lapsed.

Now, the govt has decided to slash these charges by half in an attempt to improve participation. This means owners who earlier had to pay 50% of the guidance value will now pay 25%, while the 40%, 25% and 10% slabs have been reduced to 20%, 12.5% and 5%, respectively.

According to BDA officials, the issue largely concerns lands that were acquired or notified for BDA layouts, where compensation had already been paid to original landowners, but houses were still being constructed — either by former landowners, subsequent buyers or through informal transactions. In several cases, sale deeds were executed despite the lands falling under BDA notification, often through Form 9 and 10 registrations at sub-registrar offices, leaving owners with possession but no legal title.

Students raise concerns over construction work on campus

▶ Continued from page 1

The 23-acre Bengaluru campus, which came under fire in the past over hostel facilities, has not been able to upgrade infrastructure in step with rapid expansion of its programmes which are attracting more students. The campus now has 1,734 students.

The leafy campus has five hostels for men and six for women, but allotment of rooms is steeped in mystery. Mismatch in facilities is another sore point. While men's hostels have 75 double bedrooms, women have 40. Instead, women get 93 three-tier bunk beds while men have only 18. Men have more than triple the three-bed cubicle rooms and eight times the non-bunk triple sharing rooms than women.

In a letter to the administration, students said the ratio of men to women (and other gender minorities) is almost equal. Yet, there is a severe disparity in bunk beds. "It's clear as a cloudless day that women are being treated like cattle on this campus. There's no water in most of the women's hostels for three days," the letter said.

The list of complaints included: Cots pushed to windows to make space for more beds, no ventilation, fans not enough or not working, power outages, irregular water supply. The condition in the hostel is "pathetic", said another student. Students raised concerns about construction on campus while academic activities are under way. Recently, a concrete slab fell in a common area. While no one was injured, students said it raised safety concerns.

COLLECTIVE VOICE

The student intake was to increase from 660 students to 2,200 by 2028-29. The total intake for flagship five-year integrated LLB programme is 310 as against 80 earlier.

In 2024, **TOI** reported on the lack of hostel rooms for local students. At that time, the university said it had increased the number of hostel rooms from 552 to 1,152 in three years and was awaiting further expansion.

Trade unions call indefinite bus strike from May 20

Bengaluru: Calling state govt's revision of salaries of employees of road transport corporations 'unilateral' and 'unacceptable,' the joint action committee of trade unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation called for an indefinite bus strike from May 20 across the state.

PAY REVISION

Office-bearers of the joint action committee said the govt order, revising salary by 12.5% with effect from April 1, 2025, goes against the interests of employees. The trade unions have demanded the govt revise the order by increasing salary by 25% and make it effective from Jan 1, 2024.

They said on April 29, the govt was urged to release salary arrears of 38 months and revise salaries from Jan 1, 2024. On May 12, govt issued an order revising salary by 12.5% with effect from April 1, 2025. TNN

Authorities cannot use e-khata delays to block sale deeds: HC

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Karnataka high court issued a slew of guidelines to the local authorities to bridge the "systemic grey area" and to ensure that decrees for specific performance (contractual obligations) issued by courts are effectively enforced in property/land litigation cases.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum issued the guidelines after coming across a case wherein the district registrar of Tumakuru refused to register a sale deed in the name of petitioner PS Ashok Kumar, the decree holder, for want of e-khata.

In all cases where a decree for specific performance has attained finality and the judgment-debtor failed to execute the sale deed, the executing court will be at liberty to appoint a court commissioner to execute the sale deed on behalf of the judgment-debtor, the court has said.

Where the property in question requires e-khata as a precondition for registration, the executing court may, either suo motu or on an application by the decree holder, direct the competent local authority to process issuance of e-khata for the limited purpose of facilitating execution of the decree, the order stated.

The competent local authority shall not refuse issuance of e-khata merely on the ground that the application is not made by the original owner/judgment-debtor. In such cases, e-khata may be issued either in the name of the original owner/judgment-debtor or in the name of the court commissioner representing the judgment-debtor, Justice Magadum specified in his order.

If there are arrears of property tax or any statutory dues, the competent authority shall quantify the same and permit the decree holder to remit such dues without insisting upon payment by the judgment-debtor. Upon payment of such dues by the decree holder, e-khata shall be issued within a time-bound period, not exceeding two weeks from the date of application or compliance.

The decree holder who discharges such dues shall be at liberty to recover the same from the judgment-debtor.

Move will help access fin services: DKS

▶ Continued from page 1

However, there was no clarity on whether those who have already paid the conversion fee will be reimbursed or compensated.

Bhu Guarantee reflects the govt's efforts to digitise property documents and provide more than 23 lakh e-khatas in Bengaluru. This aims to provide digitised property documents supported by drone survey and GIS mapping, thereby enhancing transparency.

Shivakumar, who announced that the three-month drive, said the move would help property owners regularise their holdings and gain access to legal documentation and financial services that are often restricted for B-khata properties.

Other measures

1. Permissible limit for building violations has been increased from 5% to 15%. This relaxation is expected to enable more properties to qualify for regularisation of their properties by paying penalties

2. 18,000 sites to be distributed to landowners in Shivaram Karanth Layout. Sites can be obtained from May 15

3. 1,900 houses constructed by BDA in Whitefield will be up for sale; applications will be received from May 15

4. A 3BHK house, measuring 1,733 sqft, will be available for around Rs 1.4 crore (at Rs 8,309/sq ft).

B'luru woman conquers Asia Trail Master Quest

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Bengaluru: Ultra achievement by an ultra runner. Bengaluru-based Ashwini Ganapathi faced relentless humidity, river crossings and dense rainforest trails through an entire night of running, and achieved what initially looked impossible. The 40-year-old has become the first Indian woman to complete the Asia Trail Master (ATM) Grandmaster Quest — one of the toughest endurance trail-running challenges.

Her final race in the two-year challenge came at Merapoh Rainforest Trail in Pahang, Malaysia, on May 1.

Runners navigated a gruelling 164-km course with 3,700 metres of elevation gain through rainforest terrain. Ashwini completed the run in 28 hours and 33 minutes, finishing 5th overall among 146 starters and 2nd among 27 women participants, well within the 42-hour cut-off.

Ashwini Ganapathi is a former IT professional who transitioned into endurance sports after discovering her passion for ultrarunning. The 40-year-old has become the first Indian woman to complete ATM Grandmaster Quest — one of the toughest endurance trail-running challenges in the world

The ATM Grandmaster Quest requires runners to complete six Asia Trail Master races of 70 km or more within two years across different countries and terrains. Ashwini began the challenge in 2024 with races across Malaysia, Japan, and Vietnam, including multiple 100-mile ultras.

Ashwini said: "The quest was about consistency over two years, across different terrains, countries, and weather conditions. Completing it as the first Indian woman feels very special."

The Merapoh rainforest course included long gravel sections, village trails, and 3.5km of river crossings. "Our feet stayed wet for hours, and sand kept getting into shoes, which causes blisters very quickly in ultra races. This was the toughest of all runs," she said.

The event began at 5.30pm with runners navigating forests using headlamps through the night. They had to carry emergency blankets, mobile phones and hydration equipment. Out of 145 participants, 76 finished the race, while just 8 completed it in under 30 hours.

She trained intensively for around three months. Her weekly routine involved 75–90 km of running along with strength and conditioning sessions at Invictus Performance Lab. "The focus was on ankle stability and strength because trail terrain is unpredictable. I had to stay injury-free and move efficiently over long distances," she said.

Ashwini, a resident of Basavanagudi, is a running coach and a former IT professional who transitioned into endurance sports after discovering a passion for ultrarunning. One of the major enablers in her journey was the AI-native platform tech firm Tekion: "Their support allowed me to train properly and access the right resources."

Aravind Gowda, Tekion's senior director (Communications), added, "Supporting Ashwini's journey to becoming the first Indian woman to complete the ATM Grandmaster Quest aligned perfectly with our mission to empower excellence and foster resilience in the communities we serve."

Ashwini also credited her family. "There are many unseen moments behind achievements like this — exhaustion, setbacks and self-doubt. My husband has been my biggest support through all of it. I hope my achievement encourages more women in India to believe that ambitious goals are possible," she said.

Life is a lot like jazz... it's best when you improvise – George Gershwin

WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Conan O'Brien returns to host Oscars for third year

Defamation suit hits Matt-Ben's Netflix thriller production

Cate Blanchett launches AI consent initiative with Hollywood support

Paramount defends Warner takeover amid growing backlash

Grammy Awards 2027 dates and nominations officially announced

Love at first strike

POV

LEISURE

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Bribe for death cert? GBA official's demand sparks outrage

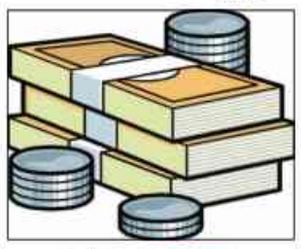
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A social media post alleging that a GBA official sought a bribe to issue a death certificate has triggered outrage online, with several citizens sharing similar experiences of facing corruption while accessing basic civic services.

The incident was reported from the birth and death certificate office in Jayanagar 4th Block. A man — who uses @KhaziKhaleel as his X handle — alleged that he was asked to pay money while trying to collect the death certificate of his uncle, who died at Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research on April 24.

"People are so greedy that they are asking for a bribe to issue a death certificate," he posted. According to the post, the hospital had informed the family that the certificate had been approved and could be collected from the GBA office. The man then visited the office on behalf of his widowed aunt and minor cousin with all the required documents.

He alleged that instead of processing the papers, an official took him aside and said there would be "expenses" if



VIRAL POST

the certificate was needed urgently. The man confronted the official and later wrote on X questioning whether families were now expected to pay even to obtain a death certificate.

Following the confrontation, the documents were reportedly processed and a collection date of May 19, 2026, was issued.

The post gained traction after being reshared by Nikhil Kumaraswamy, state youth president, JD(S).

"My heart goes out to the family. While they are mourning a loss, the system is busy counting 'commissions'. This "percentage govt" culture has reached a point where even a common man's tears have a price tag. We will not stay silent while citizens are harassed at govt doors. The GBA commissioner must act now. This systemic rot needs a complete cleanup!," he wrote on X.

The comments section saw several users narrating similar incidents at GBA offices. One user, Muninder Kumar, posted: "Even I paid a bribe for my father's death certificate at BBMP (now GBA) Whitefield office. First, you are emotionally suffering and then you have to deal with such people."

Others commented saying no action will be taken because the corruption runs from top to bottom. Another user, Madhukar Ichalkaranji, alleged a broader rot in state govt departments, suggesting that lower-level officials take their cut from leaders, who visibly live lavish lifestyles.

The incident has renewed focus on corruption complaints involving public officials in Karnataka. A March 2026 Lokayukta report recorded 195 major corruption cases against senior govt officials.

The state also leads the country with 75 active disproportionate assets investigations. According to NCRB, Karnataka ranks among the top three most corrupt states in India, with 334 cases registered in 2024 alone.

— **Nyasa Gupta**

4 arrested for stealing gadgets from hi-tech Vande Bharat trains

Pic for representation

As Vande Bharat trains have automatic sliding doors, the offenders would commit thefts when the trains would stop at stations

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Bengaluru: Contrary to the popular narrative that A/C coaches in trains are safer, passengers are now being targetted by thieves on premium trains as well.

Earlier this month, Railway Protection Force's Bengaluru division and Govt Railway Police caught a group of thieves who specifically targeted AC coaches, especially on Vande Bharat trains.

Following repeated complaints by passengers who lost their electronic devices, RPF started scanning CCTV footage from Vande Bharat trains passing through key stations in the city. Additionally footage from Sir M Visveswarayya Terminal (SMVT), Byappanahalli, Banaswadi and nearby stations was also checked and the team found four people stealing gadgets.

As Vande Bharat trains have automatic sliding doors, the offenders would commit thefts when the train would stop at stations or move slowly near outer signals.

On May 7, RPF Byappanhalli received a tip-off about the group. The team waited at Banaswadi station when a passenger train to Salem arrived at 4.30pm on platform no. 1. "The movement of four boys — repeatedly boarding and deboarding from the coaches — appeared suspicious. They were intercepted and during verification, their appearance matched with the suspects seen in CCTV footage captured on the dates of theft," an RPF officer told **TOI**.

The offenders were identified as Arun Kumar, 28, from Ejipura; Clinton R, 24, from Lingarajapuram; M Bharat, 28, from Wilson Garden; Jebaraj, 29, from Maruthi Seva Nagar. The devices recovered were worth more than Rs 2 lakh. They included a backpack containing a Lenovo laptop, its charger and bike key, valued at Rs 75,423, a Dell laptop costing Rs 50,000 and an HP laptop valued at Rs 50,000. The team also recovered two mobile phones, valued at Rs 15,000 each.

Describing their modus operandi, an officer said: "They used to get into Vande Bharat trains when the doors opened at stations and check passengers carrying expensive devices. The moment the passengers left their seats either to use the washroom or to have food, the four would seize on the opportunity."

CBSE class 12 pass rate drops to 93.1%

Chethan Shivakumar

WITH FLYING COLOURS: Students celebrate CBSE class 12 exam results at National Centre For Excellence, CV Raman Nagar in Bengaluru Wednesday

Karnataka Stands Eighth In Country

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Bengaluru: Karnataka produced an underwhelming performance with a pass percentage of 93.1 — a three-year low, and overall percentage dipping below the 95 mark — in class 12 CBSE exams, whose results were announced on Wednesday.

While Karnataka figures reflected the overall national trend, the state stood eighth in the country. The overall pass percentage in CBSE dropped 3.19% from the previous year's 88.39%.

The drop has been attributed to Central Board of Secondary Education's new On Screen Marking (OSM) system for answer books, which doesn't allow elbow room for any leniency — a decades-old common practice during evaluation.

In 2024, Karnataka was ninth in the country, with a pass percentage of 96.9. In 2025, it dropped to 95.95% and seventh position.

While Lakshadweep secured 100% results, Goa clocked 96.38%. Kerala 95.61% and Tamil Nadu 95.25%, Mizoram 94.94%, Daman and Diu 93.86% and Andhra Pradesh 93.23%.

As many as 22,386 students appeared for the exam in Karnataka. Of this, 20,861 students passed. The pass percentage of girls was 94.4% against 92% of boys. The state has 315 CBSE schools offering class 12 education. Exams were held at 187 centres.

Region wise, Bengaluru centre stood third, trailing Trivandrum (95.62%) and Chennai (93.84%).

Schools attributed the drop to strict valuation in the new system. "It is a common practice among teachers to be lenient when it comes to answer scripts that are on the borderline. With digital evaluation, no moderation or grace happened," said Manila Carvalho, principal, Delhi Public School East.

"I took part in valuation, and this is possibly the strictest yet. It is not about toppers, but those who are at the bottom. Usually, there is a case-to-case consideration by teachers. It was absent this time as the digital valuation gave no leeway," said a teacher.

Across schools, physics saw a lot of heartbreak. Many students saw a drop in maths score too. "We'll offer comments only after checking the photocopy. Students couldn't score well in applied maths too," said the principal of a prominent school.

Students smash exams with high scores

When CBSE class 12 results were announced Wednesday, there were several students who took centre stage for their remarkable performances. Here are some of the top scorers

ADITI AGARWAL | 99% | HUMANITIES | Deens Academy Whitefield

Aditi describes herself as someone who was always naturally drawn towards subjects such as political science, psychology, English and design. Having studied at Deens Academy since the age of two and a half, she says the school has shaped much of her academic journey.

Aditi plans to take up political science and has applied to various private universities. "Politics is dynamic. Something important is happening somewhere in the world every single day. That's what makes it so fascinating," she says. She recalls learning about the Montreal Protocol — international agreement signed in the 1980s to phase out substances harmful to the ozone layer — as the moment that deeply inspired her.

Behind her academic success, she says, was not a rigid study schedule, but consistency and attentiveness in class.

SANVI | 99% | COMMERCE | Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir Bangalore East

Unlike many students who drift towards conventional career choices, Sanvi made up her mind as early as class 10 that she did not want to become an engineer or a doctor. Instead, she found herself drawn towards understanding the legal system, its strengths and loopholes, and the role law plays in helping people. Her interest led her to choose commerce stream with subjects including accountancy, business studies, legal studies, English and painting in class 12.

Sanvi earned admission to Nirma University in Gujarat. "I plan to start in corporate law and later, move into litigation," she said.

"Whenever I missed classes because of CLAT preparation, my school teachers helped me catch up. My accounts teacher especially helped me improve in the subject," she said. She also believes practices like kriya sessions conducted in school helped improve concentration and retention.

ADITYA DEEPAK AVADHANI | 99% | SCIENCE | NPS Whitefield

A NEET aspirant, Aditya is preparing again for the retest. "The first one went well, I will restart preparations now," he said.

But for Aditya, the path after MBBS is not the same. "I want to get into research in medicine. It is an exciting field with so many developments in cancer research, immunology and others. I want to work in those areas. I found interest in subjects like biology and genetics in middle school itself," he said.

Aditya's motto for the exam was to follow NCERT textbooks. "If you understand the concept, you can do well in subjective and objective formats," he said.

Aditya, interestingly, was in the limelight in 2023 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised him for his practice of recycling old notebooks.

ASBAH SAHAR IMTEYAZ | 99% | SCIENCE | Delhi Public School North

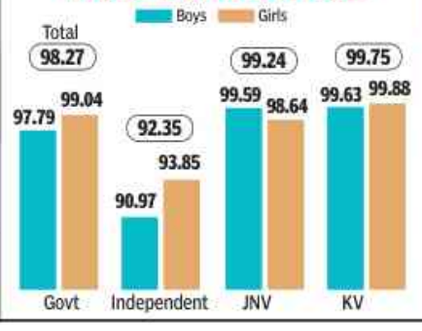
For Asbah Sahar, securing 99% in science stream is only one step towards a larger goal — becoming a doctor. "In class 11, I realised medicine was the right choice for me. It is a noble profession. There is a lot of respect for doctors, and I like challenges," Asbah said.

Asbah says most of her preparation revolved around NEET, which she did all by herself, without the help of any coaching centre. Since the syllabi overlap significantly, her entrance exam preparation automatically helped her perform well in the board exams too.

PASS PERCENTAGE (Gender-wise)

Boys 92.06%
Girls 94.46%
Total 93.19%

INSTITUTION-WISE PASS PERCENTAGE



STUDENTS SCORE 100/100

Subject	No. of Students		
English Core	2,401	History	409
Hindi elective	5	Political science	725
Hindi core	24	Economics	435
Mathematics	1,283	Accountancy	1,437
Physics	96	Business studies	1,133
Chemistry	1,061	Computer science	994
Biology	1,343	Psychology	2,533
Artificial intelligence	3,326	Geography	284

East Corp moves to fix rly underpass 'permanently'

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Bengaluru: After more than 10 days of severe waterlogging that disrupted traffic through the Doddanekundi railway underpass, East City Corporation has begun repair work, saying it has identified a permanent solution to the recurring flooding issue.

@DODDANEKUNDI

The railway underpass, a key connector between Doddanekundi and Outer Ring Road, remained inundated since the April 29 heavy rain, severely disrupting traffic in the area. Commuters, especially two-wheeler riders, were forced to walk their vehicles through the stagnant, dirty water which failed to recede even days after the rain.

While initial flooding was attributed to the heavy rain, officials said prolonged stagnation of water pointed to a deeper infrastructure issue.

Following multiple complaints from residents and motorists, engineers inspected the site and found a sewage line maintained by Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) was connected to a Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) stormwater drain running parallelly. It caused the sewage to overflow from a chamber near the underpass.

Officials also found that the GBA stormwater drain pipeline was clogged, worsening flooding and preventing rainwater from draining out. According to an engineer overseeing the works, the civic body has now separated the BWSSB sewage line from GBA's stormwater drain system.

As part of a long-term solution, East City Corporation will replace the existing stormwater drainage line with a new 130-metre-long, 3-foot-wide pipeline to improve water flow near the underpass. "We have already started work, which is expected to be completed in 10 days. There shouldn't be waterlogging here when it rains," the engineer said.

The issue sparked frustration among commuters over the past week, with several residents questioning why water remained stagnant for days in a major urban connector despite repeated complaints.

The underpass has often faced flooding concerns during rain, but this time the prolonged stagnation highlighted larger concerns over coordination between civic and utility agencies.

TOI

IN THE WORKS: The 'permanent fix' for flooding of the railway underpass that connects Doddanekundi and Outer Ring Road is expected to be completed in 10 days

COMMUTERS UNHAPPY, FRUSTRATED

"There is always a fear that water may enter silencers and damage vehicles, especially scooters and bikes. The dirty water also raises health concerns. Even light rain turns this underpass into a mess. Commuters travelling through Marathahalli route are forced to take longer alternative roads, wasting time, fuel and energy in traffic. Since this road becomes unusable, most vehicles divert through Karthik Nagar, causing heavy congestion
Mujeeb Rahman C | A COMMUTER

"I walk from Doddanekundi to my office in Bagmane Tech Park because taking a bus via Karthik Nagar is difficult and time-consuming. During rain, crossing the underpass becomes risky due to dirty, foul-smelling water, forcing many people to climb the retaining wall and cross the railway track. This time, the water remained stagnant for over 10 days, and it was clearly sewage. We are hopeful that the new work will finally address this long-standing issue
Dakshinya Potturi | IT EMPLOYEE

₹1.4k-cr GST fraud racket unearthed; two arrested

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Cracking down on GST fraud, the commercial taxes department unearthed a fake input tax credit (ITC) racket involving suspicious transactions worth nearly Rs 72,384 crore and fraudulent claims amounting to Rs 1,420 crore. Two key accused were arrested in Bengaluru, taking the total number of arrests made by the department in fake ITC cases this year to seven.

According to sleuths, the accused generated fake tax invoices and illegally availed input tax credit, causing huge losses to the state exchequer. The arrested are Nayandahalli-based Salimulla Baig, 59, proprietor of SKS Traders, and Haseen Baig, 35, proprietor of KH E-Waste Recycler. Officials said Salimulla Baig allegedly availed fake ITC worth around Rs 7,382 crore through suspicious transactions valued at nearly Rs 12,172 crore routed via 72 fake supplier firms.

Haseen Baig is accused of fraudulently claiming around Rs 738 crore in fake ITC through transactions worth Rs 7,212 crore involving 55 fake supplier entities.

The arrests were made during a joint operation conducted by the enforcement wing (south zone) and intelligence division of commercial taxes department. Officials uncovered a well-organised fake billing network operating under the guise of tungsten carbide scrap, e-waste and other scrap transactions.

Govt silent on saffron shawls and skull cap

▶ Continued from page 1

Recalling a recent controversy surrounding the removal of the janivara worn by a student at a Common Entrance Test (CET) centre in the city, Bangarappa told media in Bengaluru: "The decision to allow wearing of these symbols has been taken in the best interest of students."

Accompanied by health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who had publicly criticised a Bengaluru college for allegedly forcing a student to remove his sacred thread, and Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad, Bangarappa said the govt had decided to permit symbols associated with all religions and communities, provided they do not interfere with institutional discipline.

In their reaction, BJP functionaries pointed out that the move undermined the spirit of Karnataka high court's 2022 judgment on uniforms and warned that educational institutions should not become spaces for religious polarisation.

While the govt order explicitly lists hijab, turban, sacred thread and rudraksh as permissible religious symbols, it is silent on saffron shawls or the taqiyah (skull cap), which had gained political traction at the height of the hijab row.

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SHORT TAKES

Case against 11 for gheraoing Khader

Ullal police have registered a case against 11 persons for allegedly gheraoing assembly speaker UT Khader while reportedly opposing the construction of a circle at Kuthar Junction in Ullal taluk. A complaint by Mohammad Yasin Inamadara, a CAR personnel, said the incident took place when Khader was leaving after attending a private programme at a guest house at Mastikatte on May 7. Junaid from Madani Nagara and 10 others allegedly attempted to approach Khader, also Ullal MLA. When the complainant tried to prevent them from moving closer, the group allegedly pushed him aside, approached Khader and voiced their objections. The accused also allegedly recorded the incident and shared videos on social media with objectionable remarks as captions.

Employees protest new quota roster

Within hours of the govt issuing roster points to implement the new internal reservation matrix for Scheduled Caste (SC) communities, Karnataka State Govt SC/ST Employees' Association submitted a memorandum to SC ministers demanding the order be revoked. They called it "unscientific". The association alleged the 400-point roster system would prevent aspirants from SC communities from securing Group A category posts. "As per the current roster system, the first 50 points does not have an SC reservation in the Group A posts as it has been moved from 7th point to 9th point, from 14th point to 15th point, 23rd instead of 21st post and 49th instead of 48th point," read the memorandum. The association said that in the past 75 years, KPSC has not called for applications for more than 50 Group A posts.

After BSY, who? BJP event revives succession debate

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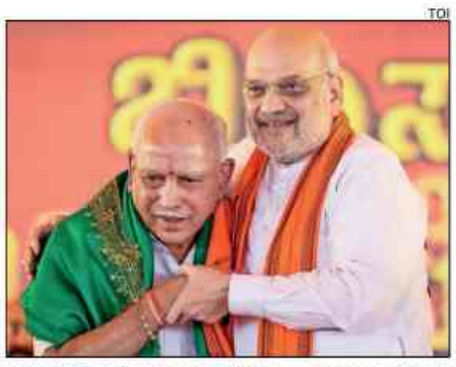
TOI



CAN'T DO WITHOUT: Amit Shah with BS Yediyurappa at the Abhimanotsava last week. Despite a massive turnout at the event, factional tensions within BJP remain unresolved

Bengaluru: The huge turnout at the BS Yediyurappa Abhimanotsava in Chitradurga last week reaffirmed the continuing influence of the BJP veteran on party workers and the Lingayat community, but it also revived debate over the party's dependence on its tallest state leader.

Despite retiring from electoral politics, the event, organised to mark 50 years of the 83-year-old leader's public career, drew lakhs of supporters, besides senior BJP functionaries, including Union home minister Amit Shah.

While BJP projected the gathering as a tribute to Yediyurappa's role in building the party in the state, political observers said the scale of mobilisation exposed the party's continuing struggle to move beyond his political legacy.

The event was also viewed as a significant show of strength for his son and state BJP president BY Vijayendra, who has faced resistance from sections within the party following the BJP's poor performance in a series of bypolls since 2023.

Political analyst Prof Harish Ramaswamy said prolonged dependence on a single face always weakens the natural emergence of second-line leadership in political parties.

"Any party in a democracy must be dynamic," he said. "If a dynastic component gets involved, it stalls this process." He said over-reliance on one individual for decades often affects organisational renewal. "We need laws restricting the term of office for individuals and inducing second-line leadership," he said.

But political strategist MB Maramkal, former media adviser to Yediyurappa, argued that BJP's central brass consciously moved towards a model that avoids over-dependence on regional strongmen.

"Karnataka BJP is in disarray for various reasons. Initially, the BJP high command was worried about Yediyurappa's legacy but after succeeding in states without projecting a chief ministerial face, it is confident of winning elections without depending on a regional functionary," he said, adding Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah increasingly preferred a centralised electoral strategy.

"After the bitter experiment with Yediyurappa, Modi and Shah reportedly decided not to encourage very strong second-line regional leadership," he said, citing examples from West Bengal, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Fresh narrative needed

Prof Ravindra Reshme, a political analyst, said instead of relying on the legacy of Yediyurappa, Karnataka BJP should instead build a fresh political narrative around Prime Minister Modi.

"The party has failed to effectively project Modi's OBC identity, governance record, and policy initiatives effectively," he said. "BJP functionaries rarely foreground Modi-centric messaging, allowing Congress' AHINDA politics to dominate discourse."

Despite the successful mobilisation in Chitradurga, factional tensions within BJP remain unresolved. Since Yediyurappa stepped down as chief minister in 2021, the party has witnessed recurring friction between members aligned with Vijayendra and rival camps led by senior state and national functionaries. Though Vijayendra attempted to bring all warring members together, some key faces were missing, while some others attended due to Shah's presence.

Sources admit that while the Abhimanotsava energised cadres ahead of the 2028 assembly elections, organisational divisions continue to persist. A senior BJP functionary said the party's biggest challenge before the next assembly polls is to maintain unity while building leadership beyond Yediyurappa's towering influence.

TOI

CHOPPER DROP: NSG commandos and state police conducted a counter terrorist mock drill at Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday

Oppn targets govt over Bidadi project

Opposition BJP Wednesday accused the govt of attempting to acquire 9,600 acres of fertile agricultural land in Bidadi and Kanchaganahalli near Bengaluru for a housing project, alleging it would damage farming and burden civic infrastructure.

Opposition leader R Ashoka said the land, historically linked to Bengaluru founder Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, supports crops such as coconut, arecanut and silk. "Of this land, 3,000 acres belong to the govt, and there is a plan to loot money through this project," Ashoka alleged. "There are already around seven lakh vacant private and govt flats."

He said former CM and Union minister HD Kumaraswamy had earlier stalled the proposal, but it was now being revived. Ashoka warned that converting farmland for housing layouts could affect food production in the long run. He also criticised the proposed expansion's impact on waste management. "This will burden BBMP with an annual garbage management cost of nearly Rs 700 crore," he said. TNN

Amid PM's self-reliance call, bid to boost sunflower yield

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TOI

WILTING: Once among Karnataka's key oilseed crops, sunflower lost ground after bud necrosis disease outbreaks wiped out yields

Bengaluru: Amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for edible oil self-reliance and lower import dependence, Karnataka is attempting to revive sunflower cultivation as the state tries to reverse a decade-long decline in oilseed farming.

Once among Karnataka's key oilseed crops, sunflower lost ground after bud necrosis disease outbreaks wiped out yields, forcing farmers to shift to more profitable and climate-resilient crops such as maize and pulses.

Agriculture department data shows sunflower and safflower cultivation has fallen to nearly 12% of earlier levels, while groundnut acreage has dropped to about 40%. Soya bean emerged as the only major exception, recording a 1,552.2% increase over four decades.

ACREAGE

Crop	'90-91	'00-01	'24-25
Soya bean	0.2	0.6	3.8
Safflower	1.7	0.9	0.2
Sunflower	8.5	4.8	1
Groundnut	12.1	10	4.7

In lakh hectares

YIELD

Crop	'90-91	'00-01	2024
Soya bean	396	1098	1293
Safflower	372	811	782
Sunflower	449	509	1019
Groundnut	708	1070	955

In kg per hectare
Source: Agriculture department

Widespread devastation

GT Puthra, director, agriculture department, said disease outbreaks and changing farm economics significantly altered cropping patterns in the state. He said after bud necrosis caused widespread devastation, maize cultivation expanded from nearly five lakh hectares to 18 lakh hectares over the years, while tur acreage in rain-fed north Karnataka regions rose from five lakh hectares to 17 lakh hectares.

Under the Centre's national mission on oilseeds, the govt has begun distributing improved seed varieties through farmer-producer organisations and seed-producing agencies to improve productivity. "Sunflower once had a major presence in Karnataka's fields," Puthra said, adding that while Madhya Pradesh dominates soya bean production, northern states lead in sesame cultivation.

Manju Ajjampura, deputy director of agriculture, said India still imports nearly 56% of its edible oil requirement, resulting in a foreign exchange outgo of around Rs 1.7 lakh crore annually. "Indonesia and Malaysia account for nearly 50% of India's palm oil," Ajjampura said. "Around 30% of soya bean oil comes from Argentina and Brazil, while sunflower oil imports, once largely dependent on Ukraine, are increasingly shifting towards Russia."

Focus on productivity

He said the national mission on edible oils is focused on certified improved varieties less than five years old. "The department has conducted block-level demonstrations of these varieties. We are focusing on increasing productivity," he said.

In 2025, improved oilseed varieties were cultivated across nearly 41,000 hectares in Karnataka. Officials said subsidies of up to Rs 9.9 lakh are being offered for processing units, while around 900 farmers have been trained in quality seed and oil production under the Atma Nirbhar initiative.

Sub-registrars oppose new transfer rules, seek changes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Picture for representation

UNFAIR? Employees submitted a 7-page memo, seeking several amendments to the draft rules

Bengaluru: The govt's attempt to introduce counselling-based transfers in the stamps and registration department to curb corruption and lobbying for lucrative posts has run into resistance from sub-registrars.

Karnataka State Stamps and Registration Department Officials' Association has submitted a seven-page objection to the draft Karnataka Civil Services (Counselling Based Transfers in Stamps and Registration Department) Rules, 2026, seeking several amendments to the proposed system.

The draft rules, issued on April 27, aim to regulate transfers through a digital counselling mechanism especially in Bengaluru and other high-revenue jurisdictions. While welcoming the proposed counselling system as a step towards transparency, the association said several provisions lacked clarity and could create administrative and legal complications.

"The draft rules need to be modified in the interest of justice, administrative fairness, cadre protection and smooth functioning of the department," said BH Shankare Gowda, association president.

Exemption for office bearers

One of the association's main demands is exemption from transfer norms for office bearers of recognised govt employees' associations during their tenure, arguing that frequent transfers could affect organisational responsibilities.

The association also opposed the proposal for a common seniority list for senior sub-registrars and sub-registrars, saying it could create confusion and affect promotions and service rights. It has sought separate seniority lists for the two cadres and correction of zone-wise office lists for first division assistants.

Employees with less than a year left to retire should also be exempted from compulsory transfers, the association said, citing medical treatment, children's education, care of elderly parents and retirement-related formalities.

The association sought clarity on eligibility of officials transferred out of Zone-A to seek reposting there. It suggested that such officials should become eligible only after completing three years of continuous service outside the zone, subject to vacancies, seniority and counselling priority. It also proposed that transfers in Zones B and C should not exceed 5% of sanctioned posts.

Braille footpaths, car-free streets part of new rules

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Bengaluru: Karnataka's new Motor Vehicles Rules 2026 have introduced provisions for Braille-enabled pedestrian infrastructure and non-motorised transport (NMT) zones, signalling a shift towards pedestrian-friendly and accessible streets.

MOTOR VEHICLES ACT

While Braille facilities have existed at railway stations, Metro stations and airports for nearly a decade, this is among the first attempts to extend such features to footpaths and pedestrian infrastructure.

The amended rules, notified Tuesday, state: "The implementing agency shall provide Braille markings on handrails at the beginning and end of staircases and ramps, wherever such facilities are provided, to indicate floor levels, street names, or relevant location identifiers to assist persons with visual impairments."

The rules also empower authorities to declare non-motorised transport (NMT) zones either permanently or during specific hours depending on pedestrian density, traffic conditions, land use and safety requirements. NMT-only streets — where only emergency vehicles will be allowed — shall have appropriate provisions for universal accessibility, seating, shading, organised vending and bicycle parking, the rules state.

Transport secretary NV Prasad said the framework was prepared following Supreme Court directions. "We took the opinion of the home department, urban development department, RDPR and PWD to frame them. Only individual departments will be able to ascertain or explain the viability of these facilities," Prasad said.

The amended rules also propose refuge islands at junctions and roundabouts to improve pedestrian safety, especially for the elderly, children and people with disabilities.

The rules describe refuge islands as the "provision of pedestrian refuges and traffic islands on pedestrian routes near junctions or roundabouts, enabling the pedestrian to deal with one lane in a particular direction of traffic at a time and is an effective way to enhance safety for elderly persons, children, and persons with disabilities by reducing exposure time to moving traffic".

The govt has also proposed pedestrian-actuated pelican signals with push-button systems and audible alerts for visually impaired pedestrians and children. "Pedestrian-actuated signals (pelican signals) may be provided at mid-block or other suitable locations on roads with high vehicular volumes, and such signals shall be equipped with push-button activation and audible devices to assist visually impaired pedestrians and children, in accordance with applicable guidelines and standards," the rules state.

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11th Death Anniversary

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18.12.1947 to 14.05.2015
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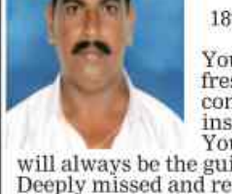

Lalita Dubey
w/o Mr. D.K. Dubey
On her 2nd death anniversary, we remember with deep sadness the passing of our beloved wife, mother, and guiding light. You are missed more than words can express, every single day. Your strength, love, and warmth continue to live in our hearts. You taught us never to give up and to embrace life fully — and we hold on to that always.
With Love
Family & Friends

SAD DEMISE

Franklin Abraham
18 January 1960 - 13 May 2026
JOHN 5:24
Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.
15TH OF MAY 2026, FRIDAY
FUNERAL SERVICE AT ST. PATRICKS CHURCH Brigade Road AT 3:00PM
BURIAL AT INDIAN CHRISTIAN CEMETERY HOSUR ROAD
With a heavy heart -
Honey, Natalie, Keren, Jonah

SAD DEMISE

Dr.K.G.DAS
DOB : 30.07.1928 DOD : 12.05.2026
Greatest doctor. Inspiring teacher. loving husband & father
Public Darshan: 14th May 2026 from 08.00 am to 12.00 pm.
@ No.18, Muniswamappa Layout, Halasuru, Swamy Vivekananda Road, Bengaluru 560008
Cremation after 3.00 pm at Kalpalli cemetery, Cox Town
Mrs. Rama Devi G Das, Govardhan Das, Gokul Das, Radhika Rani & Family members, relatives & friends
Mobile No. : 9482218262 / 9880624910

OBITUARY
We deeply regret to announce the untimely demise of our beloved
Dr. N. Raja Reddy
who passed away on 5th May 2026.

A loving, gentle, and compassionate soul, he was a devoted husband, father, brother, son, relative, and friend, cherished by all whose lives he touched. His warmth, kindness, wisdom, and values will forever remain in our hearts.
Vaikunta Samaradhane
will be held on Friday, 15th May 2026
10:00 AM to 12:30 PM at his residence.
- KNR Family, Marathahalli

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SHARING MEMORIES

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SRI.M.S. NANJA REDDY
18th Death Anniversary
Your memories are still fresh as ever. You continue to be a source of inspiration & strength. Your principles & values will always be the guiding light of our lives. Deeply missed and remembered by Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law, Brothers & Family Members.

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'I am actually afraid of heights'

How to: Avoid workout burnout

'Being in the world's top five does feel surreal, but the work has only begun'

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

PROUD OF OUR SON SUVENDU ADHIKARI, DOESN'T NEED TO SIGN MEMBERSHIP TO JOIN FAMILY, SAYS RSS

RESPONDING TO PM MODI'S APPEAL, ODISHA CM MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI HALVES HIS OFFICIAL CONVOY

Assam cabinet clears UCC draft, tribals exempted

Prabin.Kalita
@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: Assam cabinet, in its first meeting on Wednesday, cleared the decks for implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state. CM **Himanta Biswa Sarma** said the cabinet had approved the draft of the proposed law, which would not interfere with any religious traditions and would exempt the tribal populations of both the plains and the hills.

Bill to be tabled in assembly on May 26

"The UCC Bill will be laid before the assembly on May 26. This is in sync with the commitment we made during the election," Sarma said, adding that Assam's UCC aligned with similar codes already in place in Goa, Uttarakhand and Gujarat, but was tailored to the state's own social and cultural realities.

"It will not interfere with how people practise their religion, customs or traditions. How one offers prayers, performs namaz or conducts chaklang or Sikh marriages — none of these will come under the purview of the UCC," Sarma said.

The CM underlined that the state code would focus on four key areas — fixing the minimum age for marriage, prohibiting polygamy, ensuring equal property rights for sons and daughters, and mandating registration of live-in relationships, marriages and divorces.

The exemption for tribals is significant in Assam, where nearly 13% of the population belongs to Scheduled Tribes.

Once promulgated, the UCC will place Assam alongside states like Uttarakhand and Gujarat, which passed similar laws with exemptions for tribal populations. Goa, by contrast, has had a civil code since colonial times.

With NDA securing a record 102 seats in the 126-member assembly, including 82 for BJP, govt is comfortably placed to pass the proposed legislation.

In 2024, during NDA 2.0 govt, the British-era Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorces Registration Act, 1935, was repealed, ending the scourge of child marriage. Last year, a new law was enacted to prohibit polygamy in the state. Both these laws were seen as steps toward implementing the UCC.

Araghchi in Delhi; Iran to let more ships pass

Tehran Slams Abu Dhabi For Lack Of BRICS Consensus

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IANS

Iran's Seyed Abbas Araghchi arrives for BRICS foreign ministers' meet in New Delhi on Wednesday

New Delhi: As foreign minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi arrived here for the BRICS meeting, Iranian authorities said while Tehran wanted a joint declaration for a successful meeting under India's chairship, there was "one neighbouring country" that was preventing a consensus by insisting on condemnation of Iran in the document.

Iran's deputy foreign minister Kazem Gharibabadi also said that Tehran is working with friendly countries like India to facilitate safe passage of more ships through Strait of Hormuz. He ruled out unimpeded movement of all ships in the current situation though, as he blamed the US for the blockade.

The official said Iran is working on a new mechanism for movement of ships through the strait and that he was of the view that safe passage of more vessels could be facilitated if they were willing to pay for it. Indian govt sources denied that Iran has sought to charge Indian ships, adding that there is no question of India paying for the same in any case.

"It's not good to signal that BRICS is divided, but we have been attacked by the US and Israel. And one neighbouring country wants to condemn Iran even though we have only defended ourselves," said Gharibabadi, reiterating Tehran's position that it had only targeted US bases in Gulf countries from where Iran was attacked. The official, who did not name the UAE, praised India's "impartiality" in the negotiations and said Iran would welcome peace initiatives by major powers like India.

"They want to condemn Iran but not the US and Israel. We cannot accept that," he stressed. Gharibabadi also said that Iran had never sought any condemnation of Arab States in the declaration under discussion and that it was even ready to take the language of condemnation out from the declaration altogether, but there was still an insistence on censuring Iran.

Amid these differences, the BRICS meeting of officials on Middle East that India hosted last month had ended without a joint statement, and the same fate seemingly awaits the foreign ministers' meeting this week. Indian govt sources have attributed this to a sharp difference of positions among members that are party to the conflict. India has also denied that the discord in BRICS has anything to do with its own position on the Israel-Palestine issue, with official sources saying that as recently as Jan this year, it had reached a common position with Arab League, including on Palestine, and has been clear in its support for a two-state solution.

The UAE will be represented at deputy foreign minister level at the BRICS meet.

Learn lane discipline from Mumbai, says SC chiding Delhi, others

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New Delhi: Noting that there is lack of discipline in driving on roads of Delhi NCR and other cities where drivers are only concerned about reaching their destination anyhow, Supreme Court on Wednesday said that the national capital should learn from Mumbai where people follow lane driving.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan said, "There is something which is called lane driving, but it is not being followed in the country. Most accidents happen because of lack of lane driving. Forget about foreign countries, it is being followed in Mumbai. In Delhi there is no lane driving..." the bench observed.

The court said compliance with lane-driving rule is one of the biggest challenges.

Senior advocate Gaurav Agrawal, assisting the court as amicus curiae, submitted that lane driving can be ensured with electronic monitoring of traffic. He also suggested that a particular stretch be selected, on an experimental basis, for strict enforcement of lane driving.

TOI

Lane violations are a major cause of road accidents in India, with 9,432 such deaths reported in 2023

Additional solicitor general Vikramjit Banerjee, appearing for Centre, agreed with amicus's suggestion and said that Tilak Marg, connecting India Gate to Supreme Court, should first see enforcement of lane driving.

To this, Justice Pardiwala said he had seen vehicles routinely cutting lanes on Tilak Marg. "... How to inculcate lane driving and how to educate drivers are the issues. Govt must focus on it," bench said and sought suggestions from Centre on the issue.

Accidents caused by not following lane discipline—such as improper lane changing, lane hogging and driving on the wrong side—are a major cause of road accidents in India, with 9,432 such deaths reported in 2023.

SC mandates location tracking, alarm buttons in public vehicles

Amit Anand Choudhary & Dipak Dash | TNN

New Delhi: In a significant decision meant to ensure safer public transport, Supreme Court on Wednesday made it mandatory for all public service vehicles (buses, taxis and tourist coaches) to install Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLTDs) and alarm buttons.

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan directed states and UTs to ensure that such vehicles are not granted a fitness certificate under Section 56 or a permit under Section 66 of Motor Vehicles Act unless installation of these devices is verified and reflected in the Vahan application.

Rule 125H of Central Motor Vehicles Rules mandates installation of VLTDs and emergency buttons in public vehicles for live-tracking and timely emergency responses, ensuring passenger safety, particularly for women, children and the elderly.

The court passed the order on mandatory compliance with the rule after it was told that only 1% of vehicles have installed the devices in the last seven years since the rule was notified. The court said it is very disturbing that the rules are not being followed.

3 church leaders killed in Manipur ambush

MK Henry & Donald Sairem | TNN

Churachandpur/Imphal: Three church leaders returning from a religious congregation were fatally shot and four others grievously wounded in Manipur's Kangpokpi district Wednesday morning when unidentified armed men ambushed their vehicle on the Churachandpur-Kangpokpi road, putting the ethnically fractured northeastern state back on the boil.

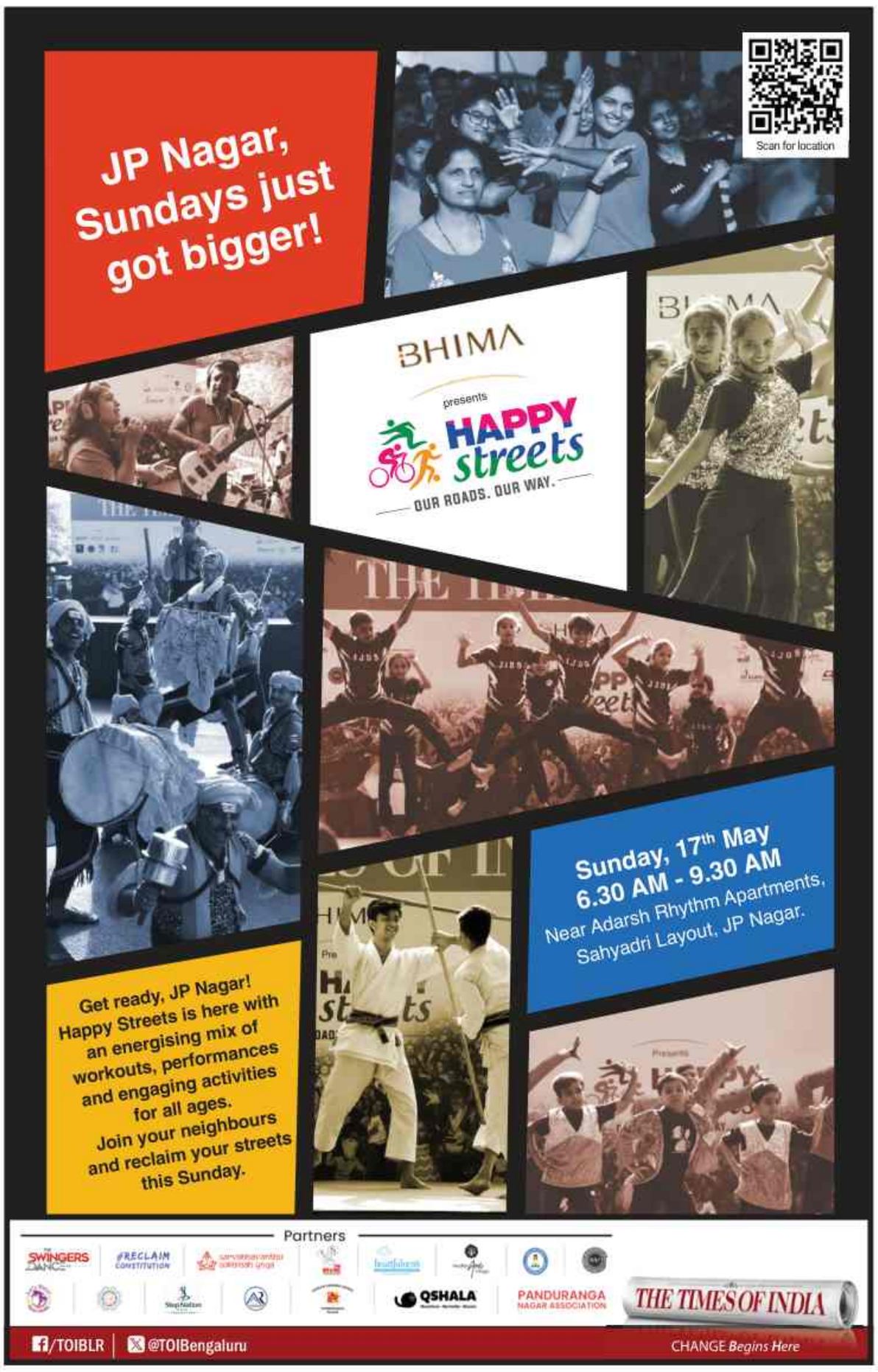
The attack took place around 10.25am on a stretch locally known as Tiger Road, between Kotzim and Kotlen villages. All three victims died before they could be moved to a hospital.

The deceased were identified as Rev Vumthang Sitlhou, former general secretary of the Manipur Baptist Convention, and pastors Paogou and Kaigoulien. A car was ferrying the trio, associated with the Thadou Baptist Association, back to their native place in Kangpokpi from the venue of the congregation in Churachandpur, sources said.

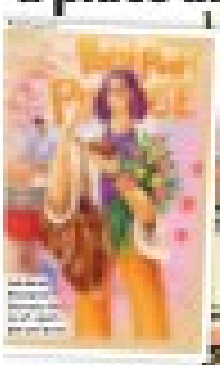
Amid shutdown calls across the two districts to protest the killings, CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh issued a statement condemning what he termed "senseless acts of violence" against civilians and aimed at foiling peace initiatives in a state battling ethnic conflict since 2023.

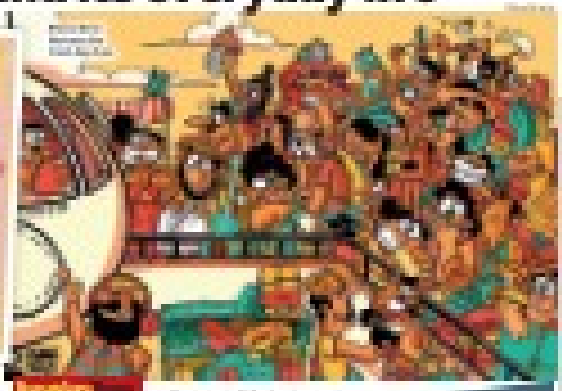
Three of the four wounded church officials had been admitted to Shija Hospitals and Research Institute in Imphal, the CM said. Singh, along with deputy CM Losii Dikho and home minister Govindas Konthoujam, visited them in hospital.

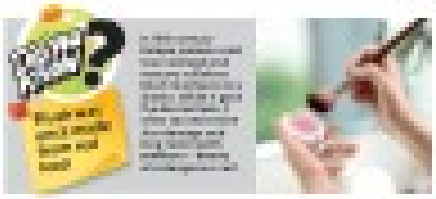
Kuki Students' Organisation's Churachandpur district unit declared an emergency indefinite shutdown from 12:30pm Wednesday. Thadou groups separately issued a strike call in Kangpokpi that led to markets and streets emptying out almost immediately.



'Illustrations become a record of a place and its everyday life'







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500 foresters, 250 camera traps to count sole Guj tiger

Himanshu Kaushik

Ahmedabad: Gujarat's sole tiger has inspired a singular census exercise — 500 forest department staff will be deployed and 250 camera traps installed to confirm the presence of Big Cat No. 1 in the jungles of the state.

Gujarat vanished from India's official tiger map more than three decades ago. But a solitary tiger has made the forests of Ratanmahal and adjoining areas along the Gujarat-Madhya Pradesh border its home since Feb 2025. This tiger has triggered a full-fledged census operation by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. The exercise, likely to be conducted in June or July, will cover Ratanmahal, Purna, and Soolpaneshwar sanctuaries.

The tiger does not have a mating partner. "Nearly 500 staff will be deployed in these three sanctuaries to count the tiger," Jaipal Singh, principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife), said. Forest officers said the extensive exercise is aimed not merely at documenting the solitary tiger, but also to determine if any additional tigers are present. Since the sole big cat frequently moves around areas connected to Madhya Pradesh forests, foresters suspect another tiger—possibly even a female — could be using the landscape.

"It is surprising that the tiger has been staying here for over a year without a mating partner. The NTCA wants to rule out the possibility of the presence of any other male or female tiger in the area," a senior forest officer said. The tiger, estimated to be around five years old, first began moving along the Ratanmahal-Madhya Pradesh border in Feb last year before settling in the sanctuary.

Despite tensions, CBSE declares results simultaneously in W Asia

▶ Continued from page 1

Delhi West and Delhi East also featured among the top 10 with pass percentages of 92.3 and 91.7, respectively.

Of 17,68,968 students who took the exams this year, 15,07,109 cleared them. In comparison, 16,92,794 students took in 2025, of whom 14,96,307 passed. More than 1.6 lakh students were placed in the compartment category this year, up from nearly 1.3 lakh last year.

CBSE said 19,967 schools participated in the examination process compared to 19,299 last year. The number of examination centres also increased from 7,330 in 2025 to 7,573 this year. Of 6,342 children with special needs candidates who took the exams this year, 5,718 passed, recording a pass percentage of 90.2%. Among them, 276 students scored above 90%, while 48 secured marks above 95%. The board additionally noted that results of students from West Asian countries were declared simultaneously with all other students despite the prevailing regional situation, saying the decision was taken to ensure fairness and equal treatment.

Schools across Delhi-NCR celebrated the results and praised students for their perseverance, discipline and consistency. Tania Joshi, principal of Indian School, said, "Some results are encouraging and made me extremely happy, like the 100s in chemistry, business studies, sociology. Some results were very realistic."

Meenu Kanwar, principal of Amity International School, Mayur Vihar, said the school recorded "exceptional" results, with girls once again leading the charts. "The school has achieved 283 distinctions and 111 perfect scores in various subjects," she said, adding that 155 students scored above 90%.

Smugglers fell 67 mango trees; officer shunted

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Bareilly: A forest guard was shunted for negligence after timber smugglers illegally felled 67 mango trees overnight in Imratarai village under Kotwali area of UP's Rampur, forest officials said on Wednesday.

Following the directions of the forest conservator, DFO Pranav Jain ordered the removal of Kulveer Singh of Swar-Milakkhanum range and attached him to the district headquarters. Officials said the incident took place around three days ago when smugglers used saws under the cover of darkness to raze the orchard in a single night.

NITI Aayog vice-chairman defends gold import duty hike

Economist and former Bengal legislator **Ashok Lahiri** *took over as the 4th vice-chairman of NITI Aayog Friday. In his first interview since taking over the role, Lahiri outlines his priorities, while backing higher gold import duty and suggesting that a broad oil subsidy may end up lowering education or health expenditure. He maintains that economic situation is not alarming. Excerpts from an interview with* TOI*'s* **Sidhartha**:

TOI INTERVIEW

You are taking over at a time when there is some stress. PM has flagged some areas of concern. How serious is the impact of the West Asia conflict and how will it impact growth, inflation, fiscal situation and balance of payments?

■ It's worrisome, undoubtedly, but if you're running a fever, people around you won't be worried if it's influenza. But if it is typhoid or malaria, then they will be worried. So, in the West Asia crisis also the question is how long will it last? If it ends soon, there's no problem. But if it's prolonged, then the situation is very different. So, we have to err on the side of caution. This is not the first time it is happening, there was the first oil price shock and the second. The problem is we are dependent on oil imports, and it is a significant dependence. If this is a sustained problem, every $10 increase in the price of a barrel of crude can increase inflation by 0.5% because petroleum is a universal intermediate. It affects fertiliser, it affects transportation cost, manufacturing is affected.

What will be the impact on macroeconomic parameters?

■ World bank, IMF, ADB, RBI have given their projections. Sitting here after taking over in NITI Aayog less than a week ago, I wouldn't hazard a guess. When prices go up, even samosa prices will increase, and you will eat fewer samosas. If inflation picks up, then it affects people's purchasing power, demand will be affected. I see it as a supply shock as without us doing anything, the supply side has affected us. In a supply shock by simple geometry, if the supply curve has shifted to the left, then you will find a tendency for growth to be affected and inflation to be high. But I don't think the time has come to ring the alarm bells. PM's appeal to the people makes sense. If prices go up, people will cut down on demand because if they don't, then prices will go up even more and demand will be affected.

Import duty on gold has been increased. What else needs to be done?

■ India has got 18,000 tonnes of gold. Our grandmothers were not rich people, but they were very fond of gold. We import gold and there is so much craze for it. Prices had reached nearly Rs 2 lakh for 10 grams and people thought it would go up even more. Historically, gold has been a poor store of value. Imposing a higher tax on gold is a good idea. PM has been absolutely statesman-like in his appeal to people to cut down on inessential expenditure. You also need to increase domestic savings because investment flows from household savings and we need investment in the economy. China in its heyday, even South Korea, had a savings rate of over 40%.

Is it time to increase retail prices of fuel?

■ Since we import most of the petroleum, we have to pay for it. We need to protect the poor and the vulnerable. After spending five years on the ground (as MLA in Bengal), I can say with certainty that a poor man uses petroleum very sparingly: he takes a bus ride instead of a car, he does not use an air conditioner or a washing machine.

Are you suggesting a steep increase in oil prices will also reduce demand?

■ It is a decision that has to be taken by govt and oil companies. But it looks inevitable. We shouldn't be cutting the education or health budget to provide oil subsidies to everyone.

How much of a worry is depreciation of the rupee and is it adding to the price pressure, including petroleum?

■ During the British Raj, the rulers were very keen to keep the rupee appreciated so that they could sell their products here, and we couldn't compete. Dadabhai Naoroji and RC Dutt used to argue for depreciating the rupee. No one is going to judge India on the basis of the strength of the rupee; let it find its level and RBI is doing the right thing. If you look at east Asia, they have never been so sensitive about the currency. If you want to export, if you want to be competitive in the world market, you need to have a rightly priced currency. If the rupee depreciates, imported products become more expensive. That is for sure.

Net FDI flows have been an issue, how do you step up inflows?

■ More FDI is welcome. For the country to develop we need a lot more capital and just our domestic savings will not be good enough. The US used to import capital and Europe used to provide that. Due to the current crisis and the uncertainty, investors are shy. We have taken several steps on ease of doing business, and more measures have been listed by govt. I have this obsession for five things: education, health, physical infrastructure, proper social welfare system, where the vulnerable and the poor get benefits, and a corruption free administration with proper law and order. We have made a lot of improvement on all aspects, but we can do much more, which will also excite investors. There may also be some information problem: foreign investors may not know what brilliant prospects await them if they move 30 km from Muzaffarpur, to get even better litichis.

As the new vice-chairman, will these be the five areas of focus? What are the immediate areas of focus?

■ I'll be guided by govt and the other members. What we discussed yesterday with the staff and our members is an ongoing discussion.

It has been more than a decade since NITI Aayog was set up, is there a need to revamp its structure?

■ I and the others are engaged with it and I don't want to pronounce a judgment on that right away. I don't think restructuring is a one step process, it's continuous. A think tank is as effective as its thoughts are implemented. I'm a great believer in impact analysis. The issue is to make NITI Aayog more effective and more impactful. There's a lot to be done and it's a challenge, mind you, because we give advice, we don't give money and advice without money has to be really good for it to be caught on.

One of the things that NITI pursued in the initial years was disinvestment and asset monetization. Given the pressure on the fiscal pressure, does govt need to step up in both these areas?

■ Of course. But having said that, you also have to avoid distress sales. I mean if you can sell your house for Rs 20 lakh today and you know that the day after tomorrow you will be able to sell it for Rs 30 lakhs then there is no reason to sell it now. But the problem is those who do not want to sell will always say 'bhao badhega ji'. I'm a great believer in increasing the rate of return from govt's investment, particularly because when the cost of borrowing from the market is 7% and your investment is not giving a rate of return of 7%, it doesn't make sense to hold on. Many other things can be done with that money with much higher social return.

Have you announced some measures?

■ We are following govt's advice, whatever can be done online, we do online and in any case it's too early for me to travel.

BITS PhD scholar found dead in South Goa, probe on

Margao: A 26-year-old PhD scholar from Kerala, studying at BITS Pilani's K K Birla Goa Campus, was found dead at a rented accommodation at South Goa's Verna Wednesday, marking the institution's second student suicide this year.

South Goa collector Egna Cleetus confirmed the preliminary finding as a case of suicide, with police investigation and a post-mortem report awaited. "This is the second case reported this year. Last year, we unfortunately had four similar cases," she said.

Cleetus attributed the recurring deaths to a "suicide contagion" or cluster effect —a phenomenon recognised in psychological and public health literature wherein repeated exposure to suicide-related incidents increases vulnerability among at-risk individuals. "When there are repeated incidents of student suicide, vulnerable people tend to imitate and die by suicide when in an emotionally stressful situation," she explained.

A district-level monitoring committee constituted to review the earlier suicides submitted its report to govt on Feb 2, identifying gaps in mental health infrastructure on campus. "One of the major findings was that they were not having an adequate number of mental healthcare professionals," Cleetus said, TNN

Akhilesh Yadav's stepbrother Prateek dies in Lucknow

Times News Network

Lucknow: Prateek Yadav, the stepbrother of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and younger son of party patriarch late Mulayam Singh Yadav, passed away in Lucknow on Wednesday morning. He was 38.

His wife Aparna Yadav, a BJP member, was in Mumbai, and rushed back to Lucknow in the afternoon after getting the news of her husband's death.

Prateek's postmortem report revealed that massive pulmonary thromboembolism caused cardiorespiratory collapse, resulting in his death. Doctors explained it as a medical condition in which a large blood clot blocks blood flow to the lungs, causing heart and breathing to fail.

Prateek was rushed to Civil Hospital around 6am by Aparna's brother Aman Singh Bisht, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Chief medical superintendent Dr D C Pandey said when Prateek was brought to the hospital, his pulse had completely dropped and his heart had stopped functioning. The body was sent to King George's Medical University for postmortem examination. Sources said Prateek had been admitted to Medanta Hospital in Lucknow on April 30 after a major health issue. After showing signs of recovery three days later, he reportedly returned home without taking a formal discharge.

UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath, who visited Prateek's residence, called his demise "extremely heartbreaking". Akhilesh described his younger brother as a hardworking and health-conscious person who always wanted to achieve something on his own through dedication and hard work. "I had seen him since childhood. It is an immense sorrow. My chest feels heavy with grief," the SP chief said.

BJP state chief Pankaj Chaudhary and MP Sakshi Maharaj were among the political figures who visited Prateek's residence to pay tributes. Prateek's father-in-law Arvind Singh Bisht told **TOI**: "An attendant told us that Prateek got up around 4 am to drink water. While drinking water, the glass slipped from his hand and he fell. The attendant then contacted my son Aman around 5am."

Prateek was the son of Mulayam and his second wife Sadhna Gupta. Despite belonging to one of UP's most influential political families, he stayed away from active politics. He ran a gym chain and real estate businesses.

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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is notified that, 2400 Sqft. Site No. 5AM/221 in 2nd Block HRBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560043, under sale from legal heirs of Rangaswamaiah. M to VIVID INFRA. For objections call us on - 9844331710.

TENDERS

Union Bank of India
Procurement Vertical
Union Bank Bhavan, 239, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021

Tender Notice

Union Bank of India invites vendors for the following items. **GeM Bid No –GEM/ 2026/B/7519248 Dated 08.05.2026.** Item / Job Description – RFP for Selection of Vendor for supply, issuance, management and support of SSL Certificates. **Date and time of tender publication – 08.05.2026 11:00 hours. Pre-bid Meeting – 19.05. 2026 11:00 hours. Bid End Date / Time – 03.06. 2026 16:00 hours.** For other details and downloading of bid document, please visit Government e-Market Place (GeM) portal **https: //gem.gov.in** for participation in the tender.

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For details, kindly visit the "Notification section on CISCE website www.cisce.org or scan the given QR CODE

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHRADHA SINGH, W/o Anil Kumar, R/a Flat No.082, Tower G, Rajapura Village, DLF Woodland Heights, Jigani P.O, Jigani Dist- Bengaluru, Karnataka, Pin-560105 here by declare that SHRADHA SINGH & SHRADDHA SINGH, both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt: 02.03.2026 before notary V. Rangaraju, B.lore. Henceforth I shall be called in future SHRADHA SINGH, only

I, ANIL KUMAR, R/a Flat No.082, Tower G, Rajapura Village, DLF Woodland Heights, Jigani P.O, Jigani Dist- Bengaluru, Karnataka, Pin-560105, here by declare that ANIL KUMAR & ANIL KUMAR SINGH, both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt: 02.03.2026 before notary V. Rangaraju, B.lore. Henceforth I shall be called in future ANIL KUMAR, only

I Mrs Savithramma W/o Late Krishnappa aged about 69 years residing at E-436 Borewell Road, near Maniyamma Temple Nagondanahalli Colony, Bangalore-560066 have changed my name Mrs.MARIYAMMA vide affidavit dated 13/05/26 sworn before notary Thippeswamy.T.

I, Mahesh Kadam, S/O; Maruti Gangaram Kadam, R/O; PLOT 104,D. NO-04, 1st Main ,4th Cross, Vakil Town, Scape Jigani Hobli, Anekal TK, BLR - 560105.Have changed my name as Mahesh Maruti Kadam.

URGENT NOTICE

ALLOTTEES / HOMEBUYERS OF M/S FAIRWEALTH HOUSING PRIVATE LIMITED (UNDER CIRP)

CIN: U70200HR2009PTC039709

Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chandigarh Bench - II

CP (IB) No. 627/Chd/Hry/2019

Fairwealth Housing Private Limited having its Registered Office at 651-652, Udyog Vihar Phase - V, Gurgaon, Haryana, India - 122001 and project at Khasra Nos. 604, 605, 606, 607, 615, Village Dhiriyawas, SRO Tapukara, Tijara, Alwar, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan is undergoing Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process vide order dated 01.06.2022 of Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bench - II, Chandigarh and undersigned has been appointed as Resolution Professional. That the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chandigarh Bench vide order dated 17.02.2026 has directed the undersigned to make a fresh publication for inviting claims of all remaining allottees/homebuyers.

Since resolution process is underway, Homebuyers/ Allottees of M/s Fairwealth Housing Private Limited, who have not filed their claims, are hereby once again invited to file their claims in Form CA along with supporting documents within 14 days from the date of this publication on the below mentioned email. In case of any query, Resolution Professional may be contacted at following address.

Mr. Sanju Kumar Resolution Professional
Comm Add: 707, Indra Prakash Building, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110001, Email address: fairwealth.cirp@gmail.com

I, AMIT GUPTA, S/o. Shri Narendra Kumar Gupta, aged about 48 years, born on 09/03/1978, permanently residing at Tower 3, Flat No. 3A, Active Acres, D. C. Dey Road, Tangra, Kolkata – 700015, West Bengal, and presently residing at C/o. Kumar, #209, Mahaveer Jasper Apartment, 6th Main, 4th Cross, Nrupatunga Nagar, JP Nagar 7th Phase, near MS Ramaiah City entrance, Bangalore – 560078, do hereby declare that I am also spiritually and publicly known as SHRIJI ATMANANDA. The names AMIT GUPTA and SHRIJI ATMANANDA denote and refer to one and the same person, namely myself, vide affidavit dated 27/04/2026 sworn before Smt. Anitha Bai, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

I, Leela Kirola, spouse of 645320-A Ex. Sgt. Ram Singh, resident of C10-804, Sandeep Vihar, Hoskote Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore-560067, have changed my name from Leela Kirola to Leela vide affidavit dated 11/05/2026 at Bangalore

I, SHRUTHI SRINIVAS RAO, D/O R.Srinivas Rao, residing at # 297, Srinivasa Nilaya, 11th Cross, 8th Main, Vidyapeeta, Opp to CKA Police Station, Bengaluru-560085 have changed my name to SHRRUTI RAO vide affidavit dated 27-04-2026 before notary Ganesh Gowda M.V., Bengaluru.

I Sanjay Nagarajan, S/o Nagarajan K, R/o K V Meadows, #301, B Blk, 59, 13th Cross, HSR Layout, 5th Sec, Bangalore – 34 shall be known as Sanjay NK for all purposes.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: Mobile Tower Lease Agreement & related documents (Vendor Code: 362137) at Village Gharanu, P.O. Paniali, Tehsil Dheera, Dist. Kangra – 176101, HP. Lost Report No. 2192230/2026 dt. 07/05/2026, Bengaluru City Police. Contact: Manju Rana D/O Late Janak Singh Rana: 9019253452.

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TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of Work
GCC:001/MM:001/ 2026-27	SE/GCC/Trichy	E-Tender cum auction for sale of Non moving and Obsolete items Ferrous and Non Ferrous Scraps ETC.
T-2379	SE/Transmission-II	Procurement of 200 Nos of 110KV Outdoor SF6 Breaker

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website **www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1881/TENDER/2026

अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर
Website :- www.rajasthan.gov.in/ada, Tel.No. :- 0145-2627748-2627749
दिनांक :- 12/05/2026

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 04/2026-27

Bids for 'Construction of road upto GSB level and cross drainage works at Silora, Kishangarh, Ajmer' amounting Rs. 482.10 Lacs are invited from interested bidders upto 02.06.2026 6:00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.raj.nic.in, http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/ada** departmental website.

UBN : AJD2627WSOB00024
Raj.Samwad/C/26/2685 **Executive Engineer**

Govt.of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Division Vijayapur
Tel.No:08352-277941, E-mail: eerdwsd.bjp@gmail.com
No:EE/RDWSD/VJP/KPPP/Tender/2025-26/187
Dated:12.05.2026

KPPP PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Governor of Govt. of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water and sanitation division, Vijayapur has invited tender through KPPP Portal for MVS O&M head of accounts as follows.

Two Cover : 01 Work.

Last date for submission of online tender through KPPP Portal is **20.05.2026 at 5.30 PM.** Date of Pre Bid Meeting **19.05.2026,** Date of opening of Technical bid is **21.05.2026 after 5.30 PM.** Date of Opening of Financial bid is **25.05.2026** at 11.00 AM. (or after Technical bid evaluation)

More details can be have from the office of the undersigned and also through www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Vijayapur

ಪಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/93/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

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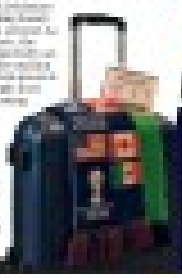
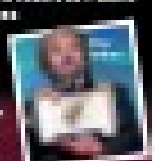


Cannes jury says art and politics are not in conflict with each other

Thief who stole Beyoncé's unreleased music jailed



Bengal lifts curbs on inter-state movement of agri products

Kaushik Pradhan & Krishnendu Bandopadhyay | TNN

Kolkata: Bengal govt Wednesday lifted all restrictions on the inter-state movement of agricultural produce, food grains, oilseeds and vegetables. This will significantly impact south Bengal's key cash crop—potato.

Bengal produced a record 140 lakh to 150 lakh tonnes of potatoes in 2025-26, marking a 20% year-on-year rise and the highest output in five years. The bumper harvest, however, triggered a logistical crisis. The state's 496 cold storage facilities can hold only 82 lakh tonnes, leaving nearly 60% of the crop vulnerable to rotting in the open unless moved quickly. Without the option of sending surplus stock to other states and Union Territories, Bengal was staring at an imminent market glut. Oversupply within the state would have led to a sharp fall in prices, forcing farmers into distress sales at the hands of middlemen.

State minister Dilip Ghosh, who also holds the agri-marketing portfolio, said in previous years such price crashes pushed farmers into a web of debt and, in some cases, to suicide.

'Hazy footage': Four persons acquitted in 2020 riots case

New Delhi: A city court has acquitted all four people accused of murdering a man during the 2020 riots, holding that "identification during investigation is immaterial if the witnesses do not identify the accused during their testimonies in court", **reports Koushiki Saha**.

It noted that the prosecution effectively had no eyewitnesses after key witnesses turned hostile.

Additional sessions judge Parveen Kumar Singh also found CCTV footage and photographs relied upon by the prosecution to be "completely hazy", observing that the accused — Hemant Pratap Singh, Vishal Kumar, Ashish and Gaurav — "could not have been identified by anyone at all by looking at these black-and-white snapshots as the faces are completely unrecognisable".

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client intends to purchase from its joint and absolute owners i.e., **(i) MR. MOHAMMED RASUL; (ii) MR. AFROZ KHAN; and (iii) MR. V LOKESH REDDY**, all that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing **Sy. No. 43/1** measuring **2 ACRES 36.08 GUNTAS** together with **3 GUNTAS 'A' POT KHARAB and 9 GUNTAS 'B' POT KHARAB**, totally measuring **3 ACRES 8.08 GUNTAS** situated at **KURANDAHALLI VILLAGE, KASABA HOBLI, MALUR TALUK, KOLAR DISTRICT** and bounded on the East by : Byalahalli Road; West by : Property of Ramachandra Rao; North by : Tank Road; and South by : Property of Venkoba Rao.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person asserting any right, title, claim, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or any other interest whatsoever in respect of the aforesaid land are hereby called upon to submit objections in writing together with documentary proof of such claim, so as to reach me at the address given below within a period of **1 (one) Week** from the date of publication of this notice. If no such objections are received, it shall be deemed that the aforesaid persons have a clear and marketable title to the aforesaid land and that none else has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the aforesaid land and my Client would be at liberty to purchase the aforesaid land.

M B Anirudh, Advocate
No. 6, S Kariyappa Road,
Earlier South Cross Road
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru 560004
Mobile : 9845593802
E-mail: info@mbanirudh.com

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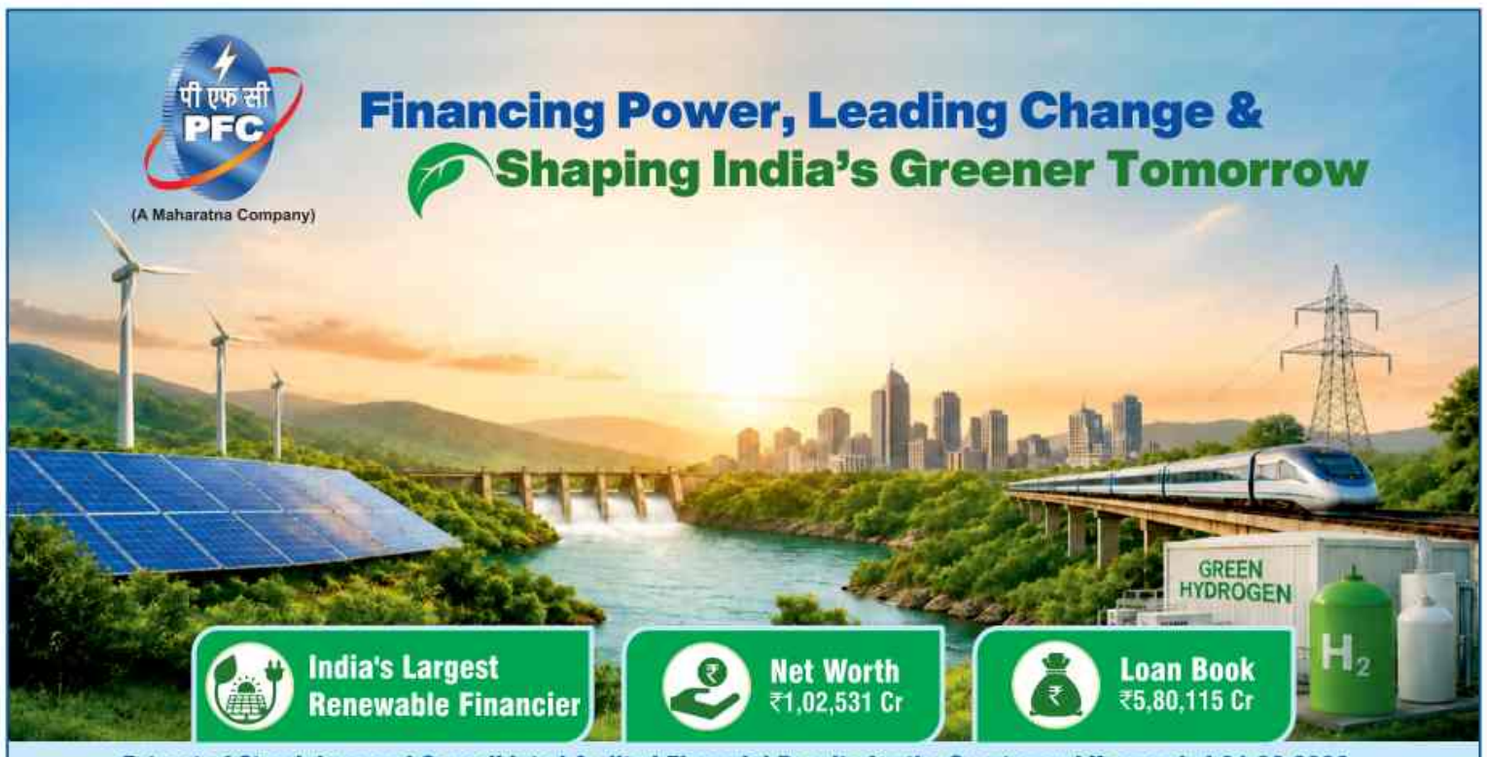

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Extract of Standalone and Consolidated Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended 31.03.2026 (₹ in Crore)

Sr. No.	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		Quarter Ended		Year Ended		Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		31.03.2026 (Audited)	31.03.2025 (Audited)	31.03.2026 (Audited)	31.03.2025 (Audited)	31.03.2026 (Audited)	31.03.2025 (Audited)	31.03.2026 (Audited)	31.03.2025 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	15,318.97	14,938.86	58,503.73	53,099.22	28,919.52	29,265.03	115,443.61	106,501.62
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	7,764.04	6,101.31	24,774.43	21,172.37	11,091.79	10,554.33	42,867.96	38,632.16
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	7,764.04	6,101.31	24,774.43	21,172.37	11,091.79	10,554.33	42,849.68	38,632.16
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	6,324.57	5,108.95	20,051.34	17,352.19	8,597.61	8,357.88	33,625.34	30,514.40
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	4,258.42	4,850.33	17,189.01	17,051.35	3,510.61	7,049.05	26,626.67	28,698.82
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value ₹10/- each)	3,300.10	3,300.10	3,300.10	3,300.10	3,300.10	3,300.10	3,300.10	3,300.10
7	Other Equity (As per Audited Balance Sheet as at 31st March)	NA	NA	99,231.84	87,636.77	NA	NA	129,560.84	114,438.25
8	Securities Premium Account	2,115.74	2,115.74	2,115.74	2,115.74				
9	Net worth	102,531.94	90,936.87	102,531.94	90,936.87				
10	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	488,516.02	465,763.08	488,516.02	465,763.08				
11	Debt Equity Ratio	4.75	5.12	4.75	5.12				
12	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (Face value ₹10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)* (in ₹)								
	(a) Basic EPS	19.16	15.48	60.76	52.58	21.21	19.14	78.49	69.67
	(b) Diluted EPS	19.16	15.48	60.76	52.58	21.21	19.14	78.49	69.67

*EPS for the Quarters is not annualised.

Notes:

1 These audited financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31.03.2026 have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved and taken on record by the Board of Directors of the Company in their respective meetings held on 13.05.2026. The same have been audited by joint statutory auditors of the Company in terms of Regulation 33 and 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarter and year ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 & 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter and year ended Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchanges' websites **www.nseindia.com** & **www.bseindia.com** and on the Company's website **www.pfcindia.com.**

3 "The Board of Directors of the Company in their meeting held on 13.05.2026 has recommended final dividend @ 39.5% on the paid up equity share capital i.e. ₹3.95 /- per equity share of ₹10/- each for the FY 2025-26, subject to approval of the shareholders at the ensuing Annual General Meeting. Further, the Company had earlier paid ₹14.60 as interim dividend for the FY 2025-26."

4 For other applicable disclosures as required under Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, refer detailed format of the financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges **(www.nseindia.com & www.bseindia.com)** and on the Company's website **www.pfcindia.com.**

For and on behalf of Board of Directors

Place: Mumbai
Date: 13.05.2026

(Parminder Chopra)
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN - 08530587

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SPOTLIGHT

Challenging India's skills gap: From demographic dividend to skills dividend

India is rethinking how young people move from classrooms to careers, with collaboration emerging as the key to unlocking opportunity

India's skills conversation is shifting. For years, the focus has been on what young people lack. Today, the conversation is turning toward what the system must do better.

With over 370 million young people, India has one of the largest workforces in the world. But without the right pathways, that advantage may not convert into real economic gains. A projected skills gap of up to 49 million workers by 2027 could cost the country nearly $2 trillion in economic output if left unaddressed.

Yet, what emerged from a recent round-table discussion bringing together leaders across sectors was not pessimism, but possibility.

MOVING FROM ISOLATED EFFORTS TO SHARED SOLUTIONS

The discussion, anchored around new research by JustJobs Network and supported by JPMorganChase, focused on a simple but urgent question: How can India build smoother, more reliable pathways from education to employment?

For Maneesha Chadha, Head of Grant Programming Asia Pacific at JPMorganChase, the answer lies in collaboration at scale. "As JPMorganChase globally, our goal is how do we help economic growth and make that growth more inclusive," she said, outlining the firm's long-term commitment to skilling in India.

Over the past eight years, JPMorganChase has invested more than $14 million in vocational training across the country. But Chadha emphasised that funding alone is not enough. "There's lots and lots of fabulous work happening on the ground," she said. "The idea was how do we bring all of this together and accelerate the adoption of these models at scale."

This is where the firm is increasingly stepping in as a convener, bringing together government, industry and non-profit leaders to move from fragmented success stories to systemic change.

A SYSTEM THAT IS EVOLVING, NOT FAILING

The challenges are real, but they are also well understood. Outdated curricula, limited work exposure and a persistent stigma around vocational careers continue to shape outcomes. At the same time, rapid technological change is redefining what skills are valuable, making adaptability just as important as technical knowledge.

But the round-table discussions made one thing clear: solutions are already emerging. From hyper-local training models that align courses with real job demand to structured career guidance embedded within schools, there is growing evidence of what works. The focus now is on scaling these solutions.

INDUSTRY STEPS INTO A NEW ROLE

For Guhaprasath Rajagopal, India Head of Payments at J.P. Morgan, this moment calls for a fundamental shift in how the industry engages with talent.

"Employers can no longer remain passive; they must help build the skills ecosystem they will depend on." That shift, he explained, requires companies to move beyond hiring and start actively shaping the talent pipeline.

This is already beginning to take shape through deeper industry engagement in curriculum design, internships and apprenticeship programmes. The findings are drawn from the report, Path to Progress: Enabling a Smooth Education-to-Employment Transition for India's Youth, developed by JustJobs Network, building on nearly a decade of learnings from successful nonprofit programmes supported by JPMorganChase.

The report itself highlights that stronger partnerships between employers, governments and training institutions can significantly improve job readiness and long-term outcomes.

REIMAGINING THE STARTING POINT: SCHOOLS

If industry is one part of the solution, schools are another. For Priya Agrawal, CEO, Antarang Foundation, the transformation must begin early, long before students enter the job market. "Students are looking at employment, which leads to incomes, which leads to socio-economic progress," she said. "Dignity is equal to progress."

Her work with the Antarang Foundation, which has been working with JPMorganChase for over eight years, reaches hundreds of thousands of students, showing that early exposure to careers can change outcomes significantly.

"Students need to first become aware of all of the opportunities that are available," she explained. "And the most credible way to normalise this is through the school system."

This means bringing industry voices into classrooms, enabling exposure visits, and engaging parents, especially for first-generation learners.

The results are tangible. Students who receive structured career education are more likely to transition into employment and earn higher wages, demonstrating the long-term value of early intervention.

THE RISE OF A MORE LOCAL, MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH

One of the strongest themes to emerge from both the research and the discussion was the importance of localisation.

Generic, one-size-fits-all training models are giving way to hyper-local approaches that map real job opportunities within specific geographies and tailor training accordingly.

This shift not only improves placement rates but also ensures that young people are trained for jobs that actually exist around them. At the same time, there is growing emphasis on employability skills such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving, skills that allow individuals to adapt as industries evolve.

A MOMENT OF ALIGNMENT

Perhaps the most encouraging takeaway is that different parts of the ecosystem are beginning to align.

Government frameworks are increasingly recognising the importance of skills alongside academic learning. Industry is stepping up with a more active role. Nonprofits are demonstrating scalable models on the ground. And institutions like JPMorganChase are helping bring all these pieces together, and at scale.

The challenge now is not about identifying solutions, but about accelerating them.

UNLOCKING WHAT ALREADY EXISTS

India's youth do not lack ambition. They do not lack capability. What they have lacked, until now, is a system that consistently connects education to opportunity.

That system is slowly being rebuilt, through collaboration, evidence and a growing willingness to rethink old assumptions.

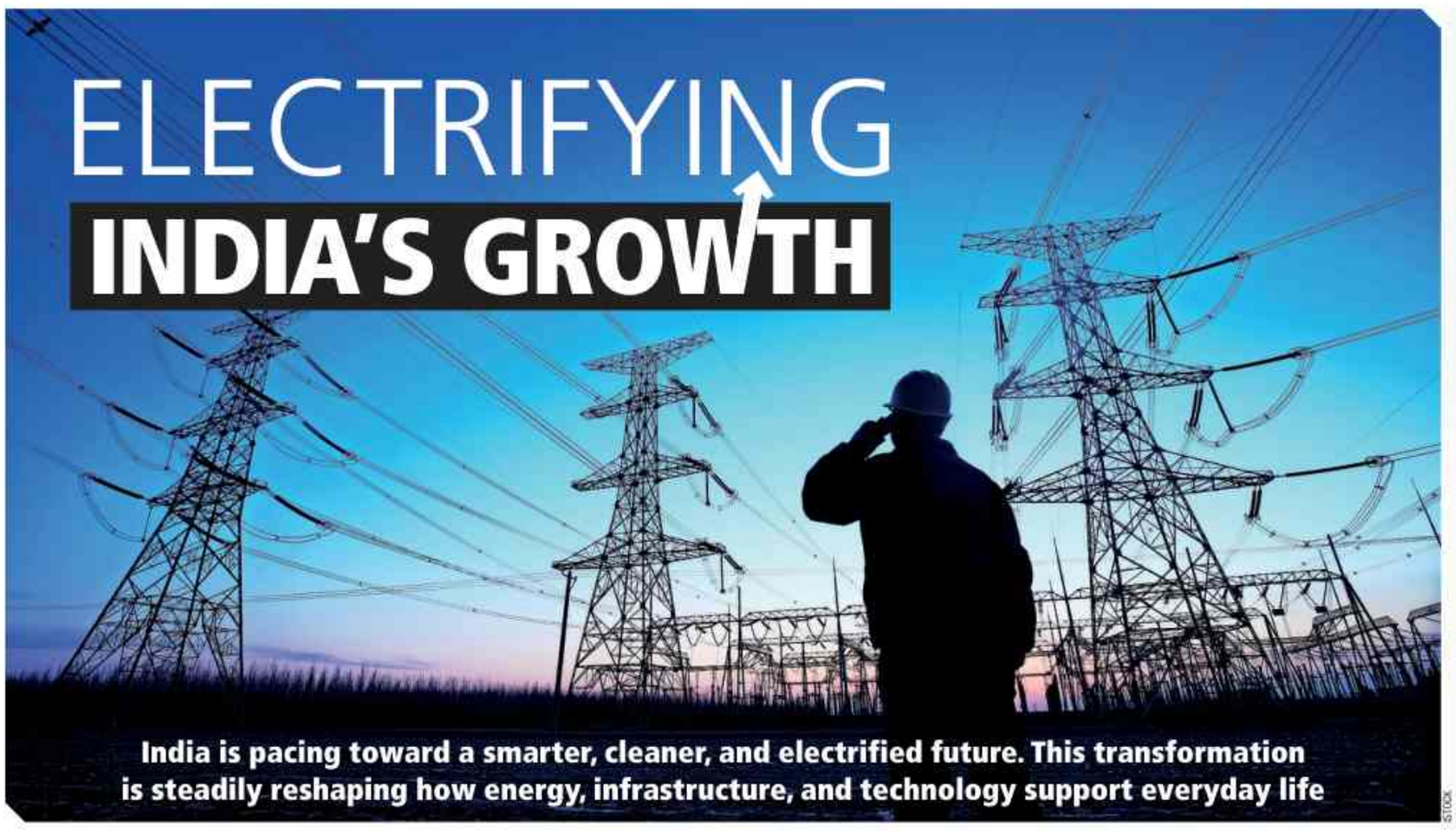
If sustained, this shift could redefine India's workforce story, not as one of gaps and deficits, but as one of alignment and possibility. And in doing so, turn potential into progress at a scale the world has rarely seen.

Disclaimer: This article has been produced on behalf of JPMorganChase.

POWERING THE FUTURE

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

ELECTRIFYING INDIA'S GROWTH



India is pacing toward a smarter, cleaner, and electrified future. This transformation is steadily reshaping how energy, infrastructure, and technology support everyday life

STOCK

Respedit.Bangalore
@timesgroup.com

India is changing in a big way, moving away from old systems that use a lot of resources to new ones that are smart, efficient, and powered by electricity. This change is happening because so many people are moving to cities, new technologies are being developed, and the country wants to be more sustainable and rely on itself.

As cities keep growing and industries get bigger, people are thinking about how to translate this growth in a better way. Now, the focus is on making things smarter, using less energy, and being kind to the environment. The country is moving away from outdated systems and towards ones that are ready for what's coming next. This shift is important because it will help India to create a more sustainable world.

Industry platforms and exhibitions have become important enablers. They bring together diverse participants, offering a space to exchange ideas, showcase advancements, and explore partnerships

SMARTER INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure today is as much digital as it is physical. What once relied on manual oversight is now increasingly driven by data, automation, and intelligent systems. Smart buildings, connected transport networks, and automated industrial environments are becoming part of the everyday fabric of a modernising India.

The real change lies in how these systems function. Predictive maintenance, AI-led controls and similar technologies are enabling real-time visibility and faster decision-making. Instead of reacting to failures, systems are now designed to anticipate them. The result is improved efficiency, greater stability and operational confidence.

This integration is changing the way resources are utilised. For example, energy management systems in commercial spaces are becoming more precise. It is reducing waste without compromising performance. In manufacturing, automation is streamlining processes while maintaining consistency. Together, these changes point to a broader shift, toward accountability in how infrastructure performs and how resources are consumed.

ELECTRIFICATION AT THE CORE OF GROWTH

At the centre of this transformation is electricity. India's move toward an electrified future goes beyond expanding access. It is about strengthening the intelligence and reliability of the entire power ecosystem. Traditional grids are gradually being replaced by smarter networks that can adapt to fluctuating demand and integrate diverse energy sources.

Grid modernisation and energy storage are playing a crucial role in this transition. They are helping create a more balanced system which can manage supply and demand with greater precision. This is particularly important as renewable energy becomes a larger part of the mix.

Electrification is also extending into new areas. One example is how mobility is shifting as electric vehicles are gradually adopted. In the industry, electricity is enabling cleaner, more controlled operations. It is no longer just a utility but becoming a core driver of efficiency and innovation.

What emerges is a more connected ecosystem in which energy is actively managed. This integration is redefining how industries operate and how infrastructure supports them.

SUSTAINABILITY AS A GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Sustainability guides how growth is planned and executed. India's development is increasingly aligned with the need to reduce environmental impact while maintaining economic momentum. Renewable energy, particularly solar, is gaining ground. However, the movement extends beyond generation. It opens to how energy is used, optimised, and conserved. Industries are re-evaluating processes, adopting efficient technologies, and focusing on reducing emissions without compromising output.

Expectations are changing across the board—from policymakers to businesses to consumers. There is a growing understanding that long-term growth depends on responsible practices. As a result, sustainability is becoming embedded in everyday decision-making, influencing everything from design to operations.

ROLE OF INDUSTRY EXPO AND ECOSYSTEM

Transformation of this scale is supported by a network of stakeholders. The list includes manufacturers, engineers, policymakers, and technology providers who work in coordination. Collaboration is essential for scaling innovation and ensuring practical implementation.

Industry platforms and exhibitions have become important enablers in this process. They bring together diverse participants, offering a space to exchange ideas, showcase advancements, and explore partnerships. More importantly, they reflect the direction the industry is moving in.

These platforms help close the gap between innovation and adoption. By connecting those who build technology with those who use it, they accelerate the transition from concept to real-world application.

MOVING FROM TRANSITION TO TRANSFORMATION

A series of deliberate shifts defines India's progress. They range from conventional infrastructure to intelligent systems, fossil-heavy energy to cleaner alternatives, and from isolated operations to integrated ecosystems. Its pace is likely to go up. Advances in digital technology, sustained investment, and a continued focus on sustainability will shape what comes next.

The challenge will be to ensure that growth remains inclusive and efficient, without losing sight of long-term priorities. What is taking shape is a more balanced model, one that values not just expansion, but quality, resilience, and responsibility. The focus is shifting from building more to building better. India's journey is still in motion, but it has a clear direction. Smarter systems, cleaner energy, and stronger integration are laying the groundwork for a practical and forward-looking future.

AI GENERATED

Homes are transforming into intuitive ecosystems that elevate everyday life, seamlessly blending technology with lifestyle. They are becoming more interactive and personalised redefining how residents live, connect, and experience the world within their own four walls

AI GENERATED

Smart homes for smart living

Respedit.Bangalore
@timesofindia.com

For tech-savvy young digital natives, home is more than a place to live in. It's a whole new world of futuristic marvels. It's their space where the Wi-Fi connects automatically when they step in, where voice-activated lamps adjust to their study time, AI-curated playlists know when it's time for lullabies, or a kitchen with a robot cook they can operate in a jiffy. Their living spaces are more intuitive and responsive.

THE NEW AGE HOME

Smart home ecosystems are now an integral nuance of modern family life. What was once a high-tech luxury has woven itself into the new normal. Kiran Venugopal, CEO and founder of a premium developer firm, notes that today's homebuyers are tuned into this shift. "Parents today know their needs will change. If it's a baby monitor today, tomorrow it's a gaming setup, and the next year it's something we haven't heard of. Developers are ensuring the home can handle whatever smart device children choose," he shares, adding that these fixtures include structured cabling throughout the home, adequate power points positioned for desks and entertainment areas, and ventilation designed for server equipment if their teenager gets into coding.

He points out that the real differentiator lies in layering intelligence into everyday spaces. "Families now want homes that can integrate smart features like automated temperature control for children's rooms, app-controlled door locks for when kids return from school, and even smart refrigerators that notify parents about snack consumption patterns," he explains.

SPACES THAT EVOLVE

As digital innovations transform over time, so too must the physical spaces that house them.

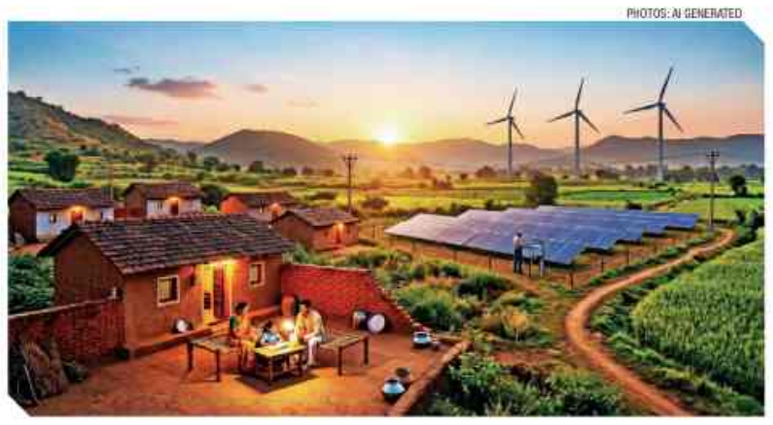
Architect Dinesh Verma emphasises that a home's design should evolve seamlessly through generations. "From being functional to offering utmost comfort, a home should be safe and easy to move around in. The children's room should be spacious enough for them to be able to play simple games indoors when the weather does not permit them to play outdoors. This means planning the doorways in such a way as to allow free and easy movement in high traffic areas," he says. The experts agree that the home of the future must blend flexibility, safety, and smart adaptability.

WHERE SAFETY REIGNS

Smart systems have redefined home security. Smart cameras and motion sensors offer real-time updates on who's at the door. Geofencing apps alert parents when their kids arrive safely at school and at home. Voice assistants can even call emergency services on command.

Highlighting the importance of integrating safety and autonomy, Venugopal says, "Families prefer gated communities where children can explore independently while parents can track them safely through wearables." Such systems, he says, balance freedom with reassurance making it that quintessential combination for today's tech-embracing families. Venugopal sums it up best when he says, "The smartest homes are those that provide spaces and landscapes that enhance life with the technology families choose."

PHOTOS: AI GENERATED



Creating a Cleaner, Sustainable Future

India's renewable energy transformation is reshaping its energy landscape with solar, wind, and green hydrogen initiatives that will reduce carbon emissions and create a sustainable future

Respedit.Bangalore
@timesofindia.com

Ten years ago, the Indian energy market, which was predominantly dependent on fossil fuels, was struggling to meet the rising energy demand and fulfil the needs of its growing population. Ever since then, realising the environmental and economic advantages of renewable energy, the country has experienced a pivotal shift in its energy landscape. "Switching to renewable energy has not only created jobs but also given remote areas access to reliable electricity. It's a win-win for the country and its people," says Devanshu Sharma, a local engineer working in solar projects.

In one of the world's most anticipated renewable energy projects, the Indian government has set an ambitious target of achieving 500 GW energy capacity by 2030, including 280 GW solely from solar energy. This commitment is part of the nation's broader strategy to transition to a low-carbon economy, with the aim of reaching net zero emissions by 2070.

According to the government sources, the country has witnessed a dramatic surge in its renewable energy capacity in the last 10 years, from 76 GW in 2014 to more than 200 GW as of June 2024. It was during the same time that solar energy skyrocketed from 3 GW to an impressive 85 GW. The Indian government's strategy involves nurturing public-private collaborations to drive sustainable energy projects. It attracts a significant amount of private investments in the renewable energy sector by offering tax benefits, policy incentives, and subsidies. "Having solar panels installed in our village has been life-changing. For the first time, we have consistent electricity that doesn't harm the environment," shares Ram Singh, a resident of a rural village. The National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) plays a crucial role in India's green energy transformation. Green hydrogen can be an ideal replacement for traditionally used fossil fuels in transportation, which contributes significantly to India's greenhouse gas emissions. Since India's aim of achieving energy independence is heavily reliant on green hydrogen, the country has allocated around Rs19,744 crore to generate 5 MMT of green hydrogen per annum. If the nation manages to fulfil this goal by 2030, it will establish India as a global hub for the production, usage, and export of green hydrogen.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Green Growth' trajectory is centred around the combined powers of solar, wind, and hydroelectric energy to ensure environmental protection, energy security, and economic resilience. The push for green hydrogen, coupled with initiatives such as the National Solar Mission, International Solar Alliance (ISA), and Wind Energy Projects, underscores his vision to make the country a hub for renewable technology and green careers.

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Bagalagunte, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru - 560073.

No: BNCC/EE/DD/TEND/02/2026-27 **Date: 12-05-2026**

CORRIGENDUM - 03

Sub: Regarding Correction of Date in Tender Notification.

Reference: This office KPP Portal Tender Notice No: BNCC/EE/DD/TEND/02/2026-27, Date: 18-04-2026.

In connection with the above subject and Reference, a Tender has been called by reference and the date has been amended in the Tender Notification due to technical reason, the details of which are as follows.

Revised Time Schedule: 1) Pre Bid Meeting: **18-05-2026 at 15.00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Dasarahalli Division, Zone-2, BNCC.

RAJASTHAN STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A Rajasthan Government Undertaking)

Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302005, Phone- 0141-2227751, 4593201
E-mail: riico@riico.co.in Website-riico.rajasthan.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE

RIICO invites sealed tenders/bids through eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for the following works/ services/supply etc.

Sr. No.	Office & Type of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.in Lacs)
1.	**Unit Head, EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur**	
1.1	Widening of Road, Construction of Paved Shoulder, Footpath and RCC Box Drain at I/A Sitapura Ph-I/II, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00425**	3559.04
1.2	Regular Operation and Maintenance of Industrial Area EPIP, Sitapura Ph I to IV, Institutional Area, SEZ Ph I & II, Ramchandrapura, Prahladpura and Residential Colonies under Unit Office EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00428**	1017.88
1.3	Widening of Roads with raised Footpath and Construction of RCC Box Drain at Industrial Area Sitapura Ph III, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00429**	2957.79
1.4	Providing Laying and Jointing of Distribution Pipe Line with Associated Works at Industrial Area Sitapura Ph I & II, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627W5OB00408**	346.10
1.5	Providing Laying and Jointing of Distribution Pipe Line with Associated Works at Industrial Area Sitapura Ph III, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00411**	332.56
2.	**Unit Head, Jaipur(North)**	
2.1	Upgradation of Infrastructure Works at Industrial Area Jhotwara (Extn.-I), Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00382**	957.42
2.2	Upgradation of Infrastructure Works at Industrial Area Jhotwara (Extn.-II), Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00383**	1656.03
3.	**Unit Head, Jaipur(Rural)**	
3.1	Improvement of Approach Road of Industrial Area Bagru (Extn.), Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00446**	1189.33
3.2	Construction of RCC Drain and Approaches Work at Industrial Area Mathasula, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00410**	783.93
4.	**Unit Head, Pali**	
4.1	Upgradation of Infrastructure at Industrial Area Nayagaon, Pali. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00439**	928.95
4.2	Upgradation of Infrastructure at Industrial Area Sojat and Marwar Junction, Pali. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00437**	502.06
4.3	Upgradation of Infrastructure at Industrial Area Falna and Sumerpur, Pali. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00435**	1026.73
5.	**Unit Head, Ghiloth**	
5.1	Strengthening & Re-Carpeting of BT Roads at Industrial Area Ghiloth. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00319**	839.79
6.	**Unit Head, Nagaur**	
6.1	Construction of Paved Shoulder with Interlocking Tiles along Roads at Industrial Area Makrana. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00433**	898.96
7.	**Unit Head, Kota**	
7.1	Development Works at Industrial Growth Park Kachhaliya, Bundi. **UBN-RDC2627WLRC00438**	1209.57
7.2	Construction of RCC Box Drain at Industrial Growth Park Sumerganj Mandi, Bundi. **UBN-RDC2627WSRC00426**	228.14
8.	**Unit Head, Jalore**	
8.1	Construction of Cement Concrete Roads and Paved Shoulder at Industrial Area Sanchore. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00343**	337.47
9.	**Unit Head, Mandore**	
9.1	Development of Part Area of Industrial Area Sopara, Tehsil Bhopalgarh. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00377**	331.46
10.	**Unit Head, Bhilwara**	
10.1	Upgradation of Various Roads at Industrial Area Biliya Phase I, II, IIIrd and Extension Bhilwara. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00386**	438.34
11.	**Unit Head, Sikar**	
11.1	Providing & Laying of Interlocking Paver Blocks on Side Berms of Approach Road at Ind. Area SKS Reengus, Distt. Sikar. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00373**	396.99
11.2	Strengthening & Re-Carpeting of Roads and P & I. Interlocking Paver Blocks on Road Side Berms at Ind. Area Neemkathana Phaser-I, Distt. Sikar. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00375**	430.08
11.3	Providing & Laying of Interlocking Paver Blocks on Road Side Berms at IGC Palsana, Distt. Sikar. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00371**	205.85
12.	**Unit Head, Sawai Madhopur**	
12.1	Providing & Laying of Interlocking Tiles at Industrial Area Malpura, Distt. Tonk. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00325**	234.23
13.	**Unit Head, Bharatpur**	
13.1	Improvement of Infrastructure at Industrial Area Vishnoda, Dholpur. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00327**	293.53
14.	**Unit Head, Udaipur**	
14.1	Strengthening & Recarpeting of Road and Providing & Fixing of Interlocking Tiles and Construction of RCC Drain at Mewar Industrial Area Udaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00332**	409.69
14.2	Improvement of Infrastructure at Ind Area at Industrial Area Gudli, Udaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00333**	289.45
15.	**Unit Head, Churu**	
15.1	Improvement of ROW of Major Roads by Laying Interlock Tiles at I/A Sardarshahar, Churu. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00361**	206.04
16.	**Unit Head, Sriganganagar**	
16.1	Rejuvenation, Upgradation, Augmentation and Rehabilitation of Water Supply System at Industrial Area Udyog Vihar Ph-I & II, Sriganganagar. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00366**	285.06
17.	**Unit Head, Banswara**	
17.1	Construction of New RIICO Unit Office Building at IGP Peepalwa Banswara. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00432**	484.90
18.	**Unit Head, Alwar**	
18.1	Strengthening & Recarpeting of Road, Const. of CC Road & P&L of Interlocking Tiles at Ind. Area MIA Extn. Alwar. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00415**	397.38
19.	**Unit Head, Jaipur(South)**	
19.1	Development Work (Improvement of ROW by P & F of Interlocking Tiles, Improvement & Covering of Drains & Construction of RWHS at Industrial Area Bassi, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00440**	620.71
19.2	Development Works at Industrial Area Hirawala and Hirawala (Ext.), Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00441**	837.42

Bidders/contractors may download and submit tender online. Detailed information of tenders and any kind of corrigendum/ date extension, if any in future, may be seen by bidders on websites riico.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
For queries please contact: GM (Civil) Ph. 0141-4593214

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2726

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI
HEALTH DEPARTMENT, TIRUMALA

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Roc. TTD-32021(32)/43/2024-HOT-TTD **Date.08-05-2026**

The Health Department, Tirupati is inviting the e-Tenders (2 nd call) (On-Line) for **"Sanitation maintenance and Mechanized cleaning at Matru Sri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annaprasada Complex (MTVAC), Vakulamata Kitchen & PAC-IV in TTD, Tirumala in three shifts for a period of 36 months" vide Tender Id No : 930575 / NIT No. 63/HOT/TTD/2025-26.** For information please contact the Health Department, TTD, Tirumala and for details login to https://apeprocurement.gov.in

TTD-40021(31)/1/2026 - PRO SEC (Adv. No 42). Date - 13.05.2026 **Executive Officer**

Government of Maharashtra
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Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Agribusiness & Rural Transformation (SMART) Project

MSFC Building, 270, Bhamburda, Senapati Bapat Road, Pune 411016
Telephone: 91-20-25656577, Website www.smart-mh.org

REoI Notice for Engagement of an Individual Consultant (Procurement Analyst) for PCMU Office, SMART Project, Pune, Maharashtra

The Project Coordination & Management Unit, SMART Project invites Expression of Interests from the interested eligible individual who will support PCMU by providing expert-level procurement advisory and operational support. The REoI document will be available on the project website www.smart-mh.org from **14/05/2026**. Interested individuals need to submit their CV along with required documents to the PCMU Office by **29/05/2026 up to 02.00 PM**. Further any updates / notices shall be published on the project website only.

Sd/-
(M J Pradip Chandren, IAS)
Project Director, SMART Project

DGIPR 2026-27/751

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - SWM Division MC		
1.	Shed of extension of 10 TPD Segregation Plant Dadumajra, Chandigarh.-(Re-invite) **Approximate Amount : Rs. 1,27,36,826/-** **Earnest Money : Rs. 2,54,740/-** **Time Period : 06 Months** **Tender Fee : Rs. 3,000/-**	14.05.2026 at 09:00 A.M To 21.05.2026 at 11:00 A.M	21.05.2026 at 11:30 A.M

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SWM Division, Room No. 612, 6th Floor, New Deluxe Building, MC Sector-17, Chandigarh email id : mcc.swm2020@gmail.com

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-14/1171/2026-27 **Date: 13.05.2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors (Civil) who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : 1) Providing and laying of Effluent Network at Adinarayanahosahalli Industrial Area Phase-2, Doddaballapura & Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **2)** Providing and laying of Domestic Sewage Network at Adinarayanahosahalli Industrial Area Phase-2, Doddaballapura & Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **3)** Providing and laying of Effluent Network at Devanahalli General Industrial Area, Doddaballapura & Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **4)** Providing and laying of Domestic Sewage Network at Devanahalli General Industrial Area, Doddaballapura & Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **05.06.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/645/Zen/2026-27

कार्यालय नगर निगम जयपुर

(पण्डित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय भवन, लालकोठी टोंक रोड, जयपुर)

क्रमांक :- जसअ/2026/75 दिनांक: 11.05.2026

ई-निविदा सूचना सं. अधिशाषी अभियन्ता (प्रोजेक्ट द्वितीय) - 06/2026-27

सभी पात्र एवं इस कार्य हेतु अधिकृत निविदादाताओं से अधिशाषी अभियन्ता (प्रोजेक्ट द्वितीय) से सम्बन्धित कार्य (Replacement of old and damaged existing sewerage system along with laying of new sewerage system and all ancillary works including 3 year defect liability with 5 years O&M for Package-3 (Jhotwara, Murlipura & Vidhyadhar Nagar Zone) of Nagar Nigam Jaipur under AMRUT 2.0 Scheme.) हेतु निविदाए आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत टेण्डर बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तारीख टेण्डर शर्त आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण नगर निगम, जयपुर की वेबसाईट **www.jaipurmc.org.com** व राजस्थान सरकार के पोर्टल **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** तथा **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखी व डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। स्टेट पब्लिक प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल का **Unique Bid Number JMC2627WLOB00123** है।

अधिशाषी अभियन्ता (प्रोजेक्ट द्वितीय)
नगर निगम जयपुर

राज.संवाद/शी/26/2708

INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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IASc No.: IASc/Fin/Inv/2026-27/01 Date: 12 May 2026

Expression of Interest (EOI)

The Indian Academy of Sciences, an autonomous institution of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, invites sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) from Nationalized Banks and Government-approved Scheduled Commercial Banks that are regulated by RBI for investment of surplus funds in Term Deposits/Fixed Deposits as per Government of India norms. Interested banks may visit the Academy website **https://www.ias.ac.in/About_IASc/Tender_notices/** for detailed terms and conditions, eligibility criteria, and submission schedule. Last date for receipt of offers is **22/05/2026 (12 Noon)**.

Sd/-
Executive Secretary

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT

No.MD/ACCTS/WK/R-11/2025/567
Date : 08/05/2026
E-TENDER CALL NOTICE-CUM-E-AUCTION

Name of the work : **Manning, Maintenance and Commercial Operation of PPA Slipway and Other Ancillaries on payment of Licence Fee for a period of 05 (Five) years.** Reserved Price : **Rs.3,69,39,980/-** plus GST as applicable for 05 years. Last Date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is **17:30 hours on Dt.01/06/2026**.Date & time of opening of Technical Bid is **11:30 hours on dt.02.06.2026**. For details,please log on to the Website:**https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**.

Deputy Conservator, PPA
PPA/PR/09/2026-2027,Dt.11/05/2026

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

CORRIGENDUM

No. PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/ Corrigendum/26/01, Dated: 08.05.2025. The following Corrigendum of E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. **Sl. No.: [01]. Tender Notice No.:** Sl. No. 028 of PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/26/12 Dated: 16/04/2026. **Tender No.:25255145A. Tender Opening Date :** Tender Opening Date is to be read as **"28/05/2026"** instead of existing entry.

PR1/345 **PCMM/CLW/Howrah**

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S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No.: DRMENGGRNC-37-2026, Dated: 11.05.2026. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), South Eastern Railway, Ranchi for & on behalf of President of India, invites e-Tender for the following works: **Notice No.: DRMENGGRNC-37-2026. Name of work:** Chandil-Muri-Barkakana Jn (SL) section : Conversion of stone-set bridges (18 Nos.) into RCC Box bridges with flat top under the jurisdiction of DEN (East) Ranchi. **Tender Value:** ₹ 10,69,12,424.48. **EMD Value:** ₹ 21,38,300/-. **Tender closing date & time:** 29.05.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Tenderers can visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for online tendering.

(PR-163)

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

YELAHANKA, BENGALURU- 560064
website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

E - TENDER NOTICE
No: RWF/EL/OT/ASC/2026-27/11
Dated:12/05/2026

E - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works) **Tender No:** RWF/EL/OT/ASC/2026-27/11 Dtd.:12/05/2026 **Name of the work:** Half yearly Electrical Maintenance of OAFL **Estimated Cost:** ₹3,59,470/- **EMD:** ₹7,200/- **Date &Time of Closing of Tenders:** 02/06/2026 at 10.30 hours **Completion Period:** 12 Months.

E - TENDER NOTICE
No:RWF/M/OT/RT shop/2026-27/10RT
Dated: 13/05/2026

Tender No: RWF/M/OT/RT shop/2026-27/10RT Dated: 13/05/2026 **Name of the work:** Hiring of 02 Nos of 3 Ton Battery operated Forklifts with drivers plus maintenance cost. **Estimated Cost:** ₹12,13,164/- **EMD:** ₹24,300/- **Date &Time of Closing of Tenders:** 04/06/2026 at 10.30 Hrs **Completion Period:** 06months.

The detailed tender notices can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in**

DY. CME/AM

Government of Andhra Pradesh
Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society (APFPS)
Industries & Commerce, Food Processing Department

Request for Proposal

RFP No.: APFPS/WFI/2026/001 Date: 13.05.2026

APFPS invites proposals from experienced and reputed stall designers and fabricators for Design, fabrication, installation, and dismantling of exhibition pavilion at First Regional World Food India South 2026, scheduled to be held at **AU Engineering College Grounds, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** on **09th -10th July, 2026** through e-Procurement portal **https://apeprocurement.gov.in**. Last date for submission of bids is **27.05.2026**. For more details visit **https://apfps.ap.gov.in / Ph. 9912014007.**

Dr. Sekhar Babu Geddam, I.F.S
Chief Executive Officer

DIPR No.:5080PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt:13/05/2026

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
(Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813)
Website: www.pspcl.in, Contact No. 96461-17651

Tender Enquiry No. 173/Dy.C.E./Th. Op./CD-28/Vol-XIV/O&M/GHTP/2026 Dated 11/05/2026

Tender ID: 2026_POWER_168196_1

Dy. Chief Engineer / Operation Circle, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-Tender for the work: **To provide assistance to staff working under Chemical Department, GHTP Lehra Mohabbat, for operation of Water Treatment plant and Coal & Environment Laboratory** for a period of two year.

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 11/05/2026 from 17:00 onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

GHTP-45/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/11470

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-2420810

IFT No.03/2026-27/CALL-3 **Dt.11.05.2026**

ITEM WISE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for a work approved under H/A: 5054-80-190-0-01-132-KRDCL-Capital Expenditure 01 works under this division with KW- 4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems. For above said work **EMD amount is Rs.2.00 Lakhs.** Pre bid Meeting will be held in the under signed office at 11.00 A.M on 14.05.2026. Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 11.05.2026 to 19.05.2026 within 17.00 PM.** KPWD Class-III & Above Contractor Registered in KPP-Portal are eligible. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer

DIPR/DDMYS/171/KSMCA/130/2026-27

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

Ugrana Bhavan, No.43, Primrose Road, Bangalore-560025.
Fax: 080-29533673, Phone No: 080-29533679
Email : kswc.eng@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

No: KSWC/ENG/44/F-54/2026-27 **Date: 13.05.2026**

1. The Managing Director, Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation, Bangalore invites e-tender for Selection of Solar Power Developer for Development, Installation of Rooftop Solar PV System of KSWC Warehouses at 52 Centres in Karnataka on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) Mode of PPP.

2. Prescribed EMD should be paid through online while submitting the tender.

Name of the work: 1) Cluster 1 - North Karnataka for 23 Locations of Newly Constructed Warehouses Centers of KSWC in various part of Karnataka. **Amount put to tender :** Rs.174.22 Crores. **EMD :** Rs.87,11,000/-. **2) Cluster 2** - South Karnataka for 29 Locations of Newly Constructed Warehouses Centers of KSWC in various part of Karnataka. **Amount put to tender :** Rs.122.40 Crores. **EMD :** Rs.61,20,000/-.

3. E-Tendering should be submitted in two cover system containing "Technical Bid and Financial Bid". Financial bids of the bidder those who qualify in Technical bid will be opened.

CALENEDR OF EVENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1.	Pre-Bid Meeting	28.05.2026 at 15.00 Hours
2.	Date of Uploading Queries Clarifications	04.06.2026 up to 17.00 Hours
3.	Last date for receipt of Tender	04.07.2026 up to 17.30 Hours
4.	Opening of Technical Bid	08.07.2026 at 15.00 Hours
5.	Opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated to the Qualified Bidders

4. The responses prepared by the Bidder and all correspondence and documents relating to the bids exchanged by the Bidder/ Developer will be in English.

5. Managing Director reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

6. Interested bidders may obtain further information at Employer's address indicated in the invitation of tender during office hours.

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

DIPR/CP/638/AKAR/2026-27

32001/215/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
KBK-II MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, JEYPORE
(E-mail ID: sekbkmi2@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-Procurement Notice
e-Procurement Notice No. ACEKBK-IIMIC-01/2026-27

Letter No. 611 **Dated: 08.05.2026**

The Additional Chief Engineer, KBK-II, Minor Irrigation Circle, Jeypore on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **Percentage rate** bids in **Double cover** system through **Online Mode**. The bid documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor, set of terms and conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**

1.	Name of work	:	Renovation to Bagrijhola MIP (Res) in Kashipur Block of Rayagada District under DPIW Scheme for the year 2026-27.
2.	Total No. of works	:	**01 (One) No.**
3.	Tender cost	:	Approximately varies from **Rs. 180.34 Lakh**
4.	Class of Contractor	:	As mentioned against work
5.	Period of completion	:	As mentioned against work
6.	Date and time of availability of Bid	:	From **10.00 AM on 15.05.2026** and upto **5.00 PM on 29.05.2026** Document in portal
7.	Last date / time for receipt of Bid	:	**Upto 5.00 PM on 29.05.2026** Document in portal
8.	Date / Time of opening of Technical Bid	:	**At 11:00 AM on 30.05.2026** in website **(www.tendersodisha.gov.in)**
9.	Name and Address Officer	:	**Additional Chief Engineer, O/o ACE, K.B.K-II, M.I. Circle, Jayanagar, Jeypore-764005**
10.	Mode of Payment of Bid cost and Bid security	:	Online
11.	Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha Website: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**		

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
K.B.K-II, M.I.Circle, Jeypore

OIPR-32001/32512/1/26-27/0001

27001/53/2627

DISCLAIMER

DTE & SCERT Odisha, Bhubaneswar has developed 55 nos. of textbooks form Grade - I to VIII, in alignment with the principles and recommendations of National Education Policy (NEP) - 2020. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy in translation & contextualization of NCERT textbooks, inadvertent errors / omissions may occur. Such errors / omissions are purely unintentional. Constructive feedback from Educators, Learners & other Stakeholders with sufficient proof will be appreciated and shall be taken care of for correction in future editions. The softcopy of textbooks are uploaded in DTE & SCERT website i.e. **https://scert.odisha.gov.in**. Please email us your constructive feedback with sufficient proof at ***textbookscertodisha@gmail.com***.

ସ୍ୱୀକାରୋକ୍ତି

ଶିକ୍ଷକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶାଳୟ ଏବଂ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଉଦ୍ଦେଷଣା ଓ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ ପରିଷଦ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, ଜାତୀୟ ଶିକ୍ଷା ନୀତି (NEP) - 2020 ର ନୀତି ଏବଂ ସୁପାରିଶ ସହିତ ସମନ୍ୱୟ ରଖି, ପ୍ରଥମରୁ ଅଷ୍ଟମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ୫୫ଟି ପାଠ୍ୟପୁସ୍ତକ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରିଅଛି । NCERT ପାଠ୍ୟପୁସ୍ତକକୁ ଅନୁବାଦ ଓ ପ୍ରାସଙ୍ଗିକରଣ କରିବାରେ ସମସ୍ତ ପ୍ରକାରର ପ୍ରୟାସ କରାଯାଇଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଅନିଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ତ୍ରୁଟି / ଭୁଲ୍ ହୋଇ ଆଇପାରେ । ଏପରି ତ୍ରୁଟି / ଭୁଲ୍ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭାବରେ ଅନିଚ୍ଛାକୃତ । ସମସ୍ତ ଶିକ୍ଷକ, ଶିକ୍ଷାର୍ଥୀ ଏବଂ ଶିକ୍ଷାବିତ୍ ମାନଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ ପ୍ରମାଣ ଭିତ୍ତିକ ମତାମତକୁ ପ୍ରଶଂସା କରାଯିବ ଏବଂ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ସଂସ୍କରଣରେ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ସଂଶୋଧନ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରୟାସ କରାଯିବ। ପାଠ୍ୟପୁସ୍ତକର ସଫ୍ଟକପି (PDF) ଶିକ୍ଷକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶାଳୟ ଏବଂ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଉଦ୍ଦେଷଣା ଓ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ ପରିଷଦ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ୱେବସାଇଟ୍ https://scert.odisha.gov.in ରେ ଅପଲୋଡ୍ କରାଯାଇଛି। ଦୟାକରି ଆପଣଙ୍କ ଗଠନମୂଳକ ମତାମତ ଆମକୁ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାପ୍ତ ପ୍ରମାଣ ସହିତ textbookscertodisha@gmail.com ରେ ଇମେଲ୍ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

OIPR-27001/27006/1/26-27/0002

32001/206/2627

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, WATER RESOURCES
ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

'e' Procurement Notice No. CEMKS 02 OF 2026-27

1. Name of the work : **Improvement to Banpur Main Canal from RD 00 km to 8.942 km.**
2. Amount put to Tender : Rs. 11,52,24,373.00
3. Bid Document Cost : Rs. 10,000.00 (online)
4. E.M.D : Rs. 11,52,250/-
5. Class of Contractor : "A" Class & "Special" Class
6. Period of Completion : 18 calendar months
7. Other details are as follows:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
		From	To	
Chief Engineer & BM, Mahanadi Kathajodi System, Bhubaneswar	CEMKS KHD 01 of 2026-27	15.05.2026 10.00 hrs	29.05.2026 17.00 hrs	30.05.2026 11.00 hrs

8. e-mail Id : **celmbbbsr@yahoo.co.in**

Further detail conditions can be seen from the Govt. website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
The Corrigendum/cancellation of Tender, if any, will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Mahanadi Kathajodi System
Bhubaneswar

OIPR-32001/32252/1/26-27/0002

4001/78/2627

THE ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION LTD.

JANAPATH, BHOINAGAR, BHUBANESWAR-22
Ph : 0674-2541545, 2542921, Fax : 0674-2541543
E-mail: ophwc.od@od.gov.in, Website: www.ophwc.com

TENDER CALL NOTICE

BID REFERENCE NO: 07/PM /ELECT/OPHWC/2026-27

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

1.	The Chief Engineer, The Odisha State Police Housing & Welfare Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar on behalf of "Superintendent of Police (SP) of Puri, Odisha" invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system for CCTV Surveillance System & PA System Contract on rental basis for following mentioned items as detailed below: -		
2.	Nature of work	:	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of IP-Based CCTV Cameras at 175 Nos. Locations for Uninterrupted Surveillance and Public Address System at 28 Nos. Locations in Puri Town and its Outskirts, along with Setup of Command Control Room and Sub-Control Rooms at 7 Nos. Locations on Rental Basis for the Period from 08.06.2026 to 27.07.2026 on the Occasion of Ratha Yatra-2026.
3.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs. 1,96,42,026.00
4.	EMD & Bid Cost	:	Rs. 1,96,420.00 & Rs.11,800.00
5.	Eligibility Criteria	:	The bidder must have executed similar rental or installation work involving a minimum of 200 CCTV cameras with centralized Command and Control integration under a single work order within the last three (03) years in any Government Department, Central Government Department or Government Undertaking.
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the Website www.ophwc.com	:	Dt.15.05.2026 to Dt.25.05.2026 up to 3:00 P.M
7.	Last date /time of Receipt of Bids	:	Dt.25.05.2026 up to 3:00 P.M
8.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt.25.05.2026 at 3:30 P.M
9.	Further details and updates can be seen from the website:www.ophwc.com		

OIPR-4001/4016/1/26-27/0001

Sd/- Chief Engineer

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, IMA & OTHER KPIDFE SCAM CASES

3rd & 4th Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001
e-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com Phone No.080-29565353/29566556

No. SPLOCA/ADM/PROC-03/22/2025-26 **Date: 12-05-2026**

Tender Notice

Special Officer & Competent Authority for IMA & other KPIDFE Cases intends to hire vehicles (including drivers) on monthly rental basis for office use for one year at an estimated cost of Rs 30 lakh.

Calender of Events:

Commencement of download of e-Tender document from website- **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**	**13/05/2026**
Last Date of Queries on or before	**15/05/2026 till 5:00 p.m.**
Pre-Bid Meeting on	**16/05/2026 at 3.00 p.m**
Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before	**21/05/2026 till 5:00 p.m.**
Opening of Technical Bid	**22/05/2026 at 12:00 p.m.**
Date of Original Document Verification	Will be done on the uploaded documents at e-portal on **27/05/2026**
Opening of Financial Bid	**29/05/2026 at 11:00 am**
Approximate value of tender	**Rs. 30.00 Lakhs**

The Tender Inviting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tender offers without assigning any reason. Amendment, if any, will be published only on the e procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home.**

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority,
(IMA & Other KPIDFE Cases) Bangalore

DIPR/CP/646/Zen/2025-26

'Vande Mataram' now mandatory in morning assemblies in Bengal schools

Kolkata: Bengal govt has made the singing of Vande Mataram mandatory during morning assemblies in schools. "The singing of 'Vande Mataram' prior to the start of classes should be made mandatory so that it is sung by all students in all schools across the state with immediate effect," reads the school education department's notice sent to heads of institutions.

The previous govt had made the state song, Banglar Mati Banglar Jol, mandatory during morning assemblies. School heads are now confused, with many saying although the new notice does not mention the state song, it would not be easy for children to sing 'Vande Mataram', 'Banglar Mati Banglar Jol', and national anthem in the assembly. "Now our first song will be 'Vande Mataram', and adding the state song will take more time, which will delay classes," said a school head. TNN

Kerala chief minister's name may be announced at Cong legislative party meet in T'puram today afternoon

▶ Continued from page 1

Jairam Ramesh said the party would announce the CM nominee on Thursday. Rahul held a 40-minute discussion with Kharge on Wednesday. He had sought the views of senior Kerala leaders a day before. With Congress calling the legislature party meeting in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday afternoon, it is understood that the name may be announced there. Some party leaders claimed the CM-select's name would come in a sealed envelope, which would be opened among the MLAs, who would then sign the paper and proceed to the governor to stake claim to form the govt.

There are concerns in Congress quarters that in view of extreme levels of lobbying by factional groups, the ultimate decision could result in disappointment and outrage among the supporters of those left out. Thus, a formula of compromise has to be offered alongside the announcement of the CM. Satheesan is said to have told the leadership that he would not join the govt, if he is not picked for the top job.

During the day, eager supporters thronged the residences of Satheesan and Chennithala in Kerala expecting an announcement in the evening.

Former state Congress chief V M Sudheeran, who met Rahul the evening before, said the people of the state are keen that their choice is selected (as the CM), adding that they are "worried" about it.

EXTRACT FROM THE AUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2026 (₹ in Crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated				
		Quarter ended			Year Ended		Quarter ended			Year Ended	
		31.03.2026	31.12.2025	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.12.2025	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
		Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	5,960.67	4,916.10	5,518.94	21,345.94	22,117.22	10,012.77	9,111.43	9,587.82	37,049.55	36,163.75
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items and Share of Profit of Associate/ Joint Ventures)	2,057.00	947.72	2,020.31	5,419.86	7,850.95	2,702.19	2,133.51	2,465.05	8,460.36	9,495.08
3	Share of Profit of Associate/ Joint Ventures						416.94	(223.53)	(272.43)	1,121.56	(58.65)
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional items)	2,057.00	947.72	2,020.31	5,419.86	7,850.95	3,119.13	1,909.98	2,192.62	9,581.92	9,436.43
5	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items)	1,789.53	808.31	1,591.48	4,455.34	6,114.19	2,424.46	1,435.89	1,496.97	7,550.67	7,039.63
6	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax attributable to Owners of the Company						2,099.61	1,195.08	1,310.10	6,619.94	6,550.93
7	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax and Other Comprehensive Income after tax)	(163.00)	1,898.59	1,010.15	5,043.10	3,327.18	1,520.86	2,490.45	306.69	11,112.53	3,933.02
8	Total Comprehensive Income for the period attributable to Owners of the Company						1,200.44	2,248.27	118.33	10,182.58	3,443.46
9	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of ₹ 10/- each)	1,626.61	1,626.61	1,626.61	1,626.61	1,626.61	1,626.61	1,626.61	1,626.61	1,626.61	1,626.61
10	Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				46,899.46	43,808.29				56,371.75	48,141.11
11	Securities Premium Account										
12	Net Worth	42,127.67	41,383.03	39,530.52	42,127.67	39,530.52	53,716.19	52,662.97	48,955.94	53,716.19	48,955.94
13	Outstanding Debt	13,277.93	12,668.13	12,073.82	13,277.93	12,073.82	35,958.87	33,695.12	29,815.61	35,958.87	29,815.61
14	Debt Equity Ratio	0.27:1	0.25:1	0.27:1	0.27:1	0.27:1	0.56:1	0.53:1	0.55:1	0.56:1	0.55:1
15	Earnings Per Share (Face value of ₹ 10/- each)										
	Basic & Diluted EPS (₹) (Quarterly figures not annualised)	11.00	4.97	9.79	27.39	37.59	12.91	7.35	8.05	40.70	40.27
16	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Debenture Redemption Reserve	95.93	95.93	95.93	95.93	95.93	113.34	95.93	95.93	113.34	95.93
18	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Times)	4.30	3.61	4.24	2.03	1.61	4.88	1.80	5.17	2.34	1.81
19	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Times)	10.35	6.96	13.56	9.06	12.28	11.01	9.24	12.16	11.21	11.99

Notes:

(i) The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Audited Financial Results for the quarter & year ended 31.03.2026 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Audited Financial Results for the quarter & year ended 31.03.2026 is available on the "Investors" section of Company's website **http://www.oil-india.com** and under "Corporates" section of National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE Limited websites at **http://www.nseindia.com** and **http://www.bseindia.com** respectively.

(ii) The Board of Directors in its meeting held on 13th May, 2026 has recommended a final dividend of ₹ 1.00 per equity share (face value of ₹ 10 per equity share), subject to the approval of the shareholders. This is in addition to the 1st interim dividend of ₹ 3.50 per equity share and 2nd interim dividend of ₹ 7.00 per equity share paid during the year by the Company.

For Oil India Limited
Abhijit Majumder
Director (Finance)
DIN : 10788427

Place: Noida
Date: 13th May, 2026

Regd. Office: Duliajan, District - Dibrugarh, Assam - 786 602, Tel: +91(0374) 280 0587
Corporate Office: Oil House, Plot No. 19, Sector 16A, Noida, District - Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201 301, Tel: +91 (120) 241 9000, CIN: L11101AS1959GOI001148
www.oil-india.com /OilIndiaLtd /oilindiaLimited /oilindialtd /OilIndiaLtdPR Oil India Limited

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
6th Floor, 2nd Stage, M.S. Building,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560 001.

No. ED/56/UBV/2026(Part-1) **Date: 13.05.2026**

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
Selection of Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, Bangalore

The Higher Education Department, Government of Karnataka invites application for the selection of Vice –Chancellor of Bangalore University, Bangalore as per section 14(2) of Karnataka State University Act 2000 from eligible and distinguished Academicians/Professors. Applications should be submitted within 30 days (including general holidays) from the date of this advertisement to the "Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, 6th Floor, Gate No. 03, Room No. 601 (R & I Section), M S Building, Bengaluru 560001". Soft copy of the application in PDF format should be sent to email : **busearchcommittee2026@gmail.com.** The application form is available on Higher Education Department website **https://hed.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Secretary to Government
Department of Higher Education

DIPR/CP/630/Zen/2026-27

MAHARAJA SRIRAM CHANDRA BHANJA DEO UNIVERSITY
Sriram Chandra Vihar, Takatpur, Baripada
Mayurbhanj - 757003, Odisha

No. MSCBU/ (Estt.-04/2026)/2026/2522 **Date: 12.05.2026**

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Applications are invited, in online mode, from eligible candidates to fill up regular posts of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor (including backlog vacancies), in the Departments of Anthropology & Tribal Studies, Biotechnology, Botany, Business Administration, Chemistry, Computer Application, Computer Science, Economics, Education, Int. B.Ed.-M.Ed., Mathematics, Physics, Social Work, Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation, Zoology, Odia, Santali of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Baripada.

Detailed advertisements will be available on the University website **www.nou.nic.in** as well as on the HIMS Portal **https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home.** The application process shall be conducted entirely in online mode through the HIMS Portal: **https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home** from **18.05.2026 to 17.06.2026.** After submitting the application online, a printout of the same, along with all supporting documents duly self-attested by the applicant, must be sent to the **"The Registrar, Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Baripada, Odisha-757003" by Speed Post / Registered Post** only so as to reach on or before **30.06.2026 by 05.00 PM.** The University reserves the right to fill or not to fill any post(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

For details of vacant Posts, essential qualifications, other terms and conditions, please visit the University website: **www.nou.nic.in** or HIMS Portal **https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home**

By order of Vice Chancellor
Sd/- Registrar,
MSCB University

POWERING THE FUTURE

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Live wires of progress

Driven by surging demand in infrastructure projects, the Indian electrical equipment market is projected to reach about USD 110–130 billion by 2030

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India's electrical equipment sector is powering into a new growth phase, fuelled by rapid infrastructure development, electrification drives, and rising demand from renewable energy and smart grid projects. According to various reports, the Indian market size for switchgears alone is projected to reach USD 5.78 billion in 2026. The market size is expected to reach USD 18.9 Million by 2033, exhibiting a growth rate (CAGR) of 5.90 per cent during 2025-2033. India's electrical equipment industry has already witnessed significant growth in recent years, playing a pivotal role in the nation's infrastructure development and industrial expansion. Key sectors, such as cables and wires, transformers, and switchgears, form the backbone of the country's power distribution and transmission systems. Here's an in-depth look at the dynamic landscape of the electrical equipment industry in India, exploring the challenges, innovations, and future prospects that drive the industry forward.

CABLES AND WIRES: POWERING CONNECTIVITY

Cables and wires play a vital role in enabling efficient power distribution and communication networks across India. The demand for various types of cables, including power cables, optical fibres, and communication cables is surging due to their applications in urban and rural infrastructure projects. "The increase in government initiatives to provide electricity, coupled with the growth of the residential and commercial sectors have significantly drive demand for high-quality cables," says Shreegopal Kabra, MD of a leading wire and cable manufacturer company. Speaking about challenges, he mentioned how the industry often faces issues when it comes to supply chain complexity or raw materials changes. "We embrace these challenges as an opportunity to excel, by finding innovative solutions amid disruptions, material changes, and changes in regulations," he says.

KEY GROWTH DRIVERS

- **Infrastructure boom:** Massive upsurge in residential, commercial, and smart city developments.
- **Renewable energy investments:** Accelerated capacity additions in solar, wind, and grid integration urge electrical equipment deployment.
- **Smart grid adoption:** Increased emphasis on grid automation, digital solutions, and IoT-enabled systems.
- **Government initiatives:** Schemes like Power for All, electrification through DDUGJY, and strong rural electrification momentum support market growth.

SWITCHGEARS: ENABLING SAFE POWER DISTRIBUTION

Switchgears form a critical component of power distribution systems, safeguarding against electrical faults and protecting equipment. "The India switchgear market is anticipated to witness significant growth during the forecast period from 2023 to 2029, primarily driven by rapid urbanisation and infrastructure development. Add to it more Industrialisation on account of Make In India and geopolitical situation which makes many multinational companies to balance their supply chain strategy," says Nikhil Pathak, VP, offer marketing and business development of a prominent digital automation and energy management firm.

INNOVATIONS AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

Innovation is at the forefront of India' electrical equipment industry's growth. The country is at the forefront of the latest technological advancements that are reshaping the sector, from eco-friendly insulation materials for cables to digital monitoring solutions for transformers and switchgears – the industry is doing it all. Luxury housing has also played a significant role in boosting the demand for branded electrical solutions. Bhushan Sawhney, executive president and chief business officer of one of India's largest manufacturers of wires and cables, says: "Branded wires and cables are favoured for their superior quality, safety features, and compatibility with advanced technologies in luxury homes. Moreover, the long-term cost-effectiveness of these products attracts consumers who value minimal maintenance."

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The vision for the future of India's electrical equipment industry is one that is packed with interesting innovations that not only meet the increasing demand for electrical equipment but also supports India's sustainable energy goals. The impact of emerging technologies such as electric vehicles and renewable energy integration on the industry's trajectory is also worth analysing. From modular switch plates to highly protective switchgears, state-of-the-art cables and wires, and smart control panels, the comprehensive range of such equipment caters to a wide spectrum of electrical needs. "These solutions empower industries and communities, revolutionizing possibilities and brightening lives for a better future," says Sawhney.

The electrical equipment industry in India stands at the cusp of transformation, with cables, transformers, and switchgears playing indispensable roles in powering the nation's progress. As India strives to achieve its ambitious development goals, the industry's innovation, resilience, and adaptability will be crucial in building a robust, efficient, and sustainable power infrastructure for the future. With advancements in technology and a commitment to quality, the electrical equipment industry is poised to electrify India's growth story. Nikhil echoes the thought and says, "India reaffirms its leadership role in developing a cutting-edge power industry with its dedication to sustainability, energy efficiency, and cutting-edge innovation."

Maha civic body razes AIMIM corporator's home & office

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Mateen Patel's lawyer called the action 'contempt of court', citing assurances given before the Bombay high court's Aurangabad bench just a day earlier

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: In an operation that triggered political uproar and local resentment, the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar municipal corporation Wednesday demolished the house and office of AIMIM corporator Mateen Patel in Naregaon, along with another house allegedly used for five days by a TCS employee before her arrest by Nashik police in the alleged sexual exploitation and conversion case.

The demolition drive began around 6.15 am under tight security, with 105 police personnel, including three ACPs, deployed, as nearly 100 civic employees moved in to flatten the structures. Following an appeal by AIMIM state president Imtiaz Jaleel, Patel's family members and local residents greeted the demolition squad with what they called "Gandhigiri" — showering flowers and offering a copy of the Constitution. The police, however, intervened and prevented them from garlanding Santosh Wahule, who was heading the demolition squad.

Jaleel slammed the action, terming it "injustice", and announced a crowdfunding campaign to rebuild Patel's demolished home and office. The move also sparked a war of words between AIMIM workers and members of governing Mahayuti parties.

On the ground, anger simmered as a neighbouring shop was also razed. Amjad Khan, owner of the building material shop, alleged that despite possessing valid permissions under the Gunthewari regularisation scheme, his structure was unlawfully demolished. Khan claimed losses exceeding Rs 20 lakh in a written complaint to municipal commissioner Amol Yedage.

Patel's lawyer Abhaysinh Bhosle called the action "contempt of court", citing assurances given before the Bombay high court's Aurangabad bench just a day earlier. "The civic body had made a statement before the high court on Tuesday that it would not take any action till the next date of hearing. Despite this, the demolition was carried out. We will seek action against the civic body and its officials," Bhosle said. The action has since turned into political flashpoint. Jaleel alleged the action was a diversionary tactic linked to an ongoing criminal case under investigation by Nashik and Ahilyanagar police, and questioned the authorities' "selective targeting". He also submitted documents to the civic chief alleging inaction against BJP corporators facing similar notices. District guardian minister Sanjay Shirsat hit back at Jaleel.

NEET-UG hybrid exam model under study after repeated paper leak rows

Papers May Be Shared Digitally & Printed Locally

AnujaJaiswal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Nearly two years after the NEET-UG 2024 paper leak controversy and following the unprecedented cancellation of NEET-UG 2026, Centre is examining a hybrid examination model under which question papers could be digitally transmitted to centres and printed locally under secure conditions. Officials said this is being considered a safer alternative because conducting a fully online exam for 23 lakh candidates remains difficult due to infrastructure and logistical challenges.

A senior health ministry official said discussions on possible reforms in NEET are expected in coming days between health ministry, National Medical Commission (NMC) and National Testing Agency (NTA), including whether parts of the examination process can be digitised.

Officials said the proposed "computer-assisted secure paper-based test", recommended by Radhakrishnan Committee, is emerging as a possible middle path between fully offline and fully computer-based examinations. Under the proposal, encrypted question papers would be sent to confidential servers at exam centres or regional hubs shortly before the exam and printed locally using high-speed secure printers.

"The idea is to reduce manual handling points during transportation and storage of question papers, which are considered vulnerable stages," an official said, adding that printing exam papers closer to examination time could reduce risks of leaks. According to officials, the hybrid system could retain advantages of a single-day, single-paper offline examination — avoiding controversies over normalisation and varying difficulty levels across shifts — while continuing to allow a large number of centres, including those in smaller towns and rural areas, to host the exam.

Another senior official said shifting NEET fully online was difficult because of the exam's sheer scale and complications linked to multiple-shift testing. "India currently lacks infrastructure to conduct a single-day computer-based exam for nearly 25 lakh students. At best, only 1 to 1.5 lakh candidates can be accommodated daily. Multiple shifts would bring into play issues of normalisation, fairness and comparisons across sessions," the official said.

The official added that many NEET aspirants from smaller towns and rural areas may not be equally familiar with computer-based testing. Unlike offline exams conducted in schools across districts, online tests require specialised centres, stable internet, uninterrupted electricity and technical manpower.

Officials said a fully online system could also significantly reduce the number of centres and force many students to travel to larger cities. Cyber-security risks, server failures and technical disruptions are also issues to be considered. Any transition, they said, would require months of preparation, including infrastructure expansion, mock tests and student familiarisation exercises.

The hybrid system, however, would still require pilot testing, infrastructure assessment and detailed operational protocols before rollout. "These are still discussions and nothing has been finalised yet. But after repeated controversies in recent years, there is broad agreement that reforms are needed," an official said.

NEET REFORM PLAN

- Hybrid exam model under review
- Papers may be digitally sent to centres
- Local printing through high-security printers proposed
- Aim is to reduce paper leak risks
- Fully online NEET difficult for 25 lakh candidates
- Only 1-1.5 lakh candidates can be accommodated daily online
- Multiple shifts may create normalisation disputes
- Rural access & cyber-security concerns flagged
- Pilot testing needed before rollout

ISI asst prof arrested for FB post on EVMs

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Kolkata: A city court on Wednesday remanded 'Bangla Paksha' founder and Indian Statistical Institute assistant professor Garga Chatterjee in police custody for four days, a day after he was arrested on charges of making provocative comments, spreading rumours about EVMs, and attempting to instigate a stir.

Chatterjee, who is a faculty member in the psychology department of ISI, said he was being framed for "speaking on behalf of Bengalis".

"Bengalis speaking the truth cannot be a crime — Bengali voices are being silenced," he said while being taken into the courtroom.

Chatterjee was arrested by the cybercrime branch of Kolkata Police on Tuesday. Seeking his custody for five days, police told the court that he had failed to cooperate with the probe despite being summoned multiple times. They also alleged that an attempt had been made to deactivate the Facebook profile under scrutiny, though it was later reactivated.

HACK OF THE DAY MAKE YOUTUBE REMIND YOU TO STOP

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps you control endless video watching, especially at night or during exam, work, or family time

WHAT TO DO: Use YouTube's time watched, take-a-break, and bedtime reminder settings to interrupt mindless viewing

STEPS:

1. **Open** the YouTube app
2. **Tap** your profile picture
3. **Open** Time watched or Time management
4. **Set** a take-a-break reminder for long viewing sessions
5. **Add** a bedtime reminder if late-night scrolling is the bigger problem

NOTE: The reminder will not fix discipline by itself, but it creates a useful speed breaker before one video becomes one hour

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

Vijay revokes astrologer's posting as OSD after backlash

Chennai: Astrologer Rickey Radhan Pandit Vettrivel predicted the rise and fall of several politicians, the latest being the ascendance of C Joseph Vijay to the TN chief minister's chair. What he didn't foresee, however, is the reversal of his fortunes within hours of his being appointed the officer on special duty (OSD) to the CM by Vijay.

Faced with all-round criticism, including from allies, Vijay on Wednesday revoked the appointment.

The state govt issued the revocation order after Vijay, during his address in the assembly, said he would reconsider the appointment.

After taking over as the CM days ago, Vijay had appointed Vettrivel as his OSD, a move that drew swift condemnation from opposition DMK as well as VCK and Left parties supporting the TVK govt, which said the move would promote superstition. Speaking in the assembly, MLA Vanniarasu went a step further, urging the state govt to bring in legislation similar to laws in Maharashtra and Karnataka to curb exploitation through superstitious practices. TNN

Biwal family at centre of Rajasthan NEET probe

▶ Continued from page 1

The probe has also raised questions about the Rajasthan govt's response after its SOG uncovered significant overlaps between a circulated "guess paper" and the actual NEET paper between May 8 and May 10, but did not immediately register an FIR or even flag it. The state govt waited for exam conductor NTA's assessment and Centre's decision to transfer the probe to CBI before formal action gathered pace.

CBI is questioning arrested suspects to trace the exact source of the so-called guess paper that contained questions similar to those asked in the exam. Initial investigation revealed the culprit had been identified, as of now, as a student from Sikar district, though the CBI suspects the chain could extend further up.

The Biwal family is at the centre of the Rajasthan leg of the probe. Sources said four kids from the family cleared NEET in 2025 and are studying in different medical colleges, while Dinesh's son had been preparing for this year's NEET-UG in Sikar. Vikas, too, had appeared for NEET last year but didn't make the cut.

ANI

NSUI members stage a protest in Jaipur on Wednesday

Officials suspect Dinesh travelled to Sikar around April 29 to hand over the question set to his son. He allegedly procured the material from Yash between April 26 and 27 before distributing it. "It appears that Dinesh shared it with 10 people," an official said. Cops are probing whether Dinesh's son further circulated the material among friends at his coaching centre.

After producing Dinesh, Mangilal, Vikas and Yash in a Jaipur court on Wednesday, the CBI took them to Delhi.

The trail that led to the Biwals began with a whistleblower. Sources said a faculty at a coaching institute in Sikar alerted authorities after noticing that a widely circulated guess paper shared across WhatsApp and Telegram contained a large number of questions matching the actual NEET paper. The whistleblower emailed NTA, following which the information reached the SOG headquarters in Jaipur on May 8. SOG teams reached Sikar the same day and began quietly questioning students and suspects.

The Pune-Maha leg has uncovered what officials described as the point of origin for the physical copy. Officials said a detained Ayurveda practitioner got a hard copy and couriered it to Khairnar in Nashik, who forwarded them to a Gurugram contact.

No big deal,' says Raj edu minister

Jaipur: Rajasthan's school education minister Madan Dilawar Tuesday said the cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 is "no big deal" and that the national exam, in which 23 lakh students appeared, was cancelled because of irregularities. The minister said every individual involved in the alleged paper leak would face strict consequences. TNN

Legal hurdles to further complicate new exam date

▶ Continued from page 1

The calendar is already packed," said a counsellor involved in entrance test coordination. "Securing over 500 centres, mobilising invigilators, and ensuring a smooth, leak-proof examination within a compressed window is not just logistical — it is operationally intensive."

At the same time, legal challenges could further complicate timelines. Some parents are preparing to move court against the decision to conduct a re-NEET. Parent representative Sudha Shenoy said the situation may mirror 2024, when multiple petitions were filed across the country.

"Even if the exam is conducted by mid-June, the entire admission process shifts. Counselling — first all-India and then state rounds — will move accordingly," she said. "Several parents, especially those whose children were expecting very high scores, are considering legal action. As in 2024, petitions could be clubbed and heard in SC." The all-India quota counselling is expected to run in the first fortnight, followed by state-level rounds, leaving little room for compression.

Student held for paper leak among school's top achievers

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Gurgaon: When Rajasthan police arrived at a house in Khurampur village in Farrukhnagar on Monday evening, neighbours watched in disbelief as they took away Yash Yadav, the son of a farmer whose face adorns a banner of the local Oxford Convent School announcing its achievers.

Yash is the only one listed under 'MBBS selection', a feat no one in the village was surprised by. "He scored 98% in CBSE," a next-door neighbour told **TOI**. That "studious" boy has emerged as one of the faces of the paper leak that has led to cancellation of this year's NEET-UG and thrown lakhs of medical aspirants into uncertainty as they face a re-test. A first-year BAMS student at Manjira Devi Ayurvedic College and Hospital in Uttarkashi, Yash is the youngest of three siblings from Khurampur village. His brother is pursuing hotel management and his sister is studying law at a private university.

Neighbours described Yash's family as humble and hardworking.

Backing TVK in deference to people's mandate, says Velumani

▶ Continued from page 1

AIADMK split played out openly in the assembly. Velumani said they were backing TVK in deference to the people's mandate.

When opposition leaders accused TVK of horse-trading, the CM replied: "This govt runs at horse-speed, not through horse-trading." The session began with Vijay moving the confidence motion. Leaders of various parties then spoke on the motion before voting was conducted through the division method. Under the procedure, the assembly bell was rung twice before the doors were shut to prevent members from entering or leaving.

A total of 144 MLAs backed the motion. Three votes — those of the Speaker, Tirupattur MLA Srinivasa Sethupathy and the vacant Trichy East seat vacated by Vijay — weren't cast.

Vijay said the mandate received by TVK in its maiden assembly election reflected the people's faith in a "govt of commoners".

Delhi HC calls for more scrutiny of mobile apps

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Reuters

HC asks Google, Apple to remove apps that disseminate obscene content on its platform

New Delhi: Social media intermediaries must conduct due diligence even at the time of uploading apps, Delhi High Court stressed Wednesday as it asked Google and Apple to remove mobile applications hosted on their online platforms that disseminate obscene pornographic content.

"We can't permit a whole generation of the country to be ruined. We understand all kinds of freedom under Article 19 (of the Constitution) but that does not mean we allow (dissemination of vulgar content)," the court observed, as it reminded the intermediaries that their role was not limited to blocking content on receiving a complaint.

A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia said, the social media intermediaries must play the "most vital role" by acting against such apps even at the time of uploading.

It also asked the Centre's Indian Computer Emergency Response Team to check dissemination of such content, while hearing a PIL by Rubika Thapa against the hosting of mobile applications offering vulgar and pornographic content on platforms run by Google and Apple.

The court also issued notices to Central govt, Google LLC, Apple, and CERT-In on the PIL and sought an action-taken report from the platforms, adding that it expects the 2021 IT Rules "are followed in letter and spirit."

According to the PIL, offending mobile applications were easily available to children and earning millions of dollars through these illegal operations. The counsel for the petitioner highlighted that such applications were also being used as a tool for blackmail and honey-trapping. On its part the Centre's counsel said the menace must be curbed and called for more accountability from the online platforms since "safe harbour" protection is being misused.

The petitioner stated that several mobile applications that do not originate in India were hosting extremely "vulgar live streams" with the intent to attract and retain users, in blatant violation of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and various provisions of BNS and argued that Google and Apple were 'Significant Social Media Intermediaries' but have grossly failed in their due diligence obligations under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

PM cuts down convoy size; BJP CMs, other leaders follow suit

Kumar Rakesh & Dipak Dash | TNN

New Delhi: PM **Narendra Modi** travelled in a drastically trimmed-down convoy on Wednesday while many of his ministerial colleagues, including home minister Amit Shah and defence minister Rajnath Singh, downsized their carcade by more than half, with fleets of vehicles accompanying VIPs cut down, as govt sent out the message that it is willing to practice what it preaches in line with Modi's multiple suggestions to conserve fuel.

Prime Minister Modi's convoy in the short route from his residence to his office 'Seva Teerth', where he chaired a cabinet meeting, had only two SUVs, a sharp reduction on over a dozen.

Shah, who faces the highest level of threat after Modi, followed suit and his convoy was cut to more than half to four vehicles, as govt sought to amplify Prime Minister Modi's appeal aimed at conserving forex reserves, a large part of which is used for crude oil import.

PM's longer trips may necessitate a bigger carcade, depending on security assessment by the SPG — the elite security group which guards PM — of the situation on a case-by-case basis. But Modi's message is that he is cutting down on his fleet and that everyone should prioritise saving fuel, officials stressed.

PM Modi's domestic tours outside Delhi recently had fewer than usual number of vehicles, with the SPG working on his directions to reduce the convoy while sticking to its remit of maintaining essential security protocol. Rajnath Singh's cavalcade, too, had only four vehicles.

INDIA DIGEST

B'desh rejects Jamaat's claims of persecution

Bangladesh govt has rejected claims by Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), the country's largest Islamist party, and its allies that Muslims are being persecuted in India, particularly West Bengal and Assam, saying it has not received any reports of such incidents, neither of persecution nor of atrocities, reports Ahsan Tasnim. "What proof or data do you have that such torture against Muslims has started? Many old incidents are being circulated on social media. Our diplomatic mission is there. Our ministry of foreign affairs is there. You can ask them. We have not received any reports of such incidents of torture," home minister Salahuddin Ahmed said Tuesday after a section of the media sought his comments.

NSA slapped on 2 activists over Noida labour protest

Police invoked National Security Act against a writer and activist and a Delhi-based PhD scholar accused of orchestrating violence during a workers' protest for higher minimum wages on April 13, drawing criticism from civil rights groups. Satyam Verma (62) had a long stint as a journalist in Lucknow and Delhi, wrote for monthly paper Mazdoor Bigul, linked to the organisation Mazdoor Bigul Dasta, which police claim is behind the violence. Verma was arrested from Lucknow on April 17. Aakriti Choudhary, a student and theatre artist, is a member of Mazdoor Bigul Dasta.

Union govt hikes support price of 14 Kharif crops

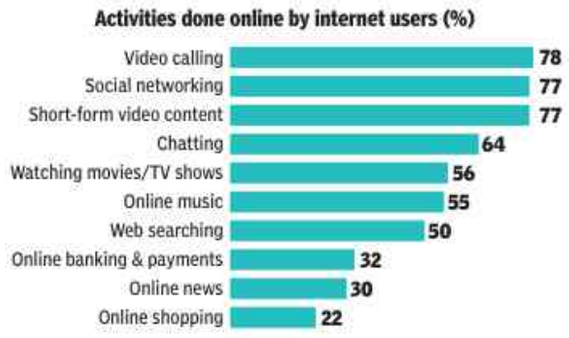
Centre on Wednesday approved hike in minimum support prices (MSP) of 14 Kharif crops for the marketing season 2026-27, with the most-popular Kharif crop paddy getting an increase of Rs 72 per quintal (3%) to reach Rs 2,441 per quintal. The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has, however, been recommended for sunflower seed (Rs 622 per quintal), followed by cotton (Rs 557 per quintal), niger seed (Rs 515 per quintal) and sesamum (Rs 500 per quintal), giving a signal to farmers to primarily opt for oilseeds over other crops to reduce India's import bills of edible oils.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

What are Indian netizens' most preferred activities?

Nearly 8 in 10 active internet users* in the country make video calls, while only 22% shop online

Activities done online by internet users (%)



*India has 91.5cr active internet users (aged above 2); Source: India Internet Report 2025

Bengal highlights existing ban on cow slaughter

Kolkata: Bengal govt on Wednesday cited a 1950 Bengal law and a 2018 Calcutta high court order to issue a public notice banning cow slaughter without written permission, **report Dwaipayan Ghosh & Kaushik Pradhan**.

"No person shall slaughter any animal thereby meaning (bulls, bullocks, cows, calves, male and female buffaloes, buffalo calves and castrated buffaloes) unless he has obtained in respect thereof a certificate that the animal is fit for slaughter," the govt order said. Govt cited the West Bengal Animal Slaughter Control Act, 1950, while issuing the public order.

Court should carve out space for dissenters: Senior advocate

▶ Continued from page 1

This remark came when senior advocate G Mohan Gopal said the court was interpreting the interplay of Article 25, which gave individuals the right of freedom of conscience and right to freedom of religion, and Article 26, which conferred the right to religion on a denomination.

Gopal said the court should carve out space for dissenters within the denominations to enable reforms in the practices, which is stifled at present. The bench disagreed with him and Justice Nagarathna said, "Whether a person goes to a temple or not for worship is neither a qualification of disqualification in Hinduism."

CJI Kant said, "Hinduism is flexible and accommodates myriad ways of worship without forcing anyone to go to a temple. A person who goes to a temple is as much a Hindu as the person who quietly lights a lamp in his small hut with a silent prayer." He said SC is not a super-spiritual leader to interpret religious practices, reform of which is primarily in the hand of the legislature.

The "Hinduism is a way of life" ruling by a three-judge bench came on a petition challenging a Bombay HC judgment that had quashed the election of Shiv Sena candidate Ramesh Yeshwant Prabhoo on the ground that party supremo Bal Thackeray, while campaigning for the candidate, had appealed for votes in the name of religion.

Upholding the disqualification, the bench led by Justice J S Verma had said, "Thus, it cannot be doubted, particularly in view of the constitution bench decisions of this court, that the words 'Hinduism' or 'Hindutva' are not necessarily to be understood and construed narrowly, confined only to the strict Hindu religious practices unrelated to the culture and ethos of the people of India, depicting the way of life of the Indian people."

Gopal argued faith in God should not be replaced with faith in clergy, which is increasingly taking place and referred to Ambedkar's proposal on religious rights in Aug 1947 before the Constituent Assembly to suggest that the right to convert should be elevated as a fundamental right. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta objected and said this proposal was rejected after a debate in the Constituent Assembly. Senior advocate C S Vaidyanathan said, "While courts may be entitled to interpret the law in such a manner that the rights existing in the blueprint (Constitution) have expansive connotations, the court cannot impose additional restrictions by using tools of interpretation."

He advocated a nuanced approach to maintain the identity and purpose of individual and denominational religious rights.

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
रेल मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(रेलवे बोर्ड) (RAILWAY BOARD)

Ministry of Railways, Government of India invites applications from eligible persons for the post of Managing Director in National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), which is implementing Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed train project:

For detailed advertisement, kindly refer to **www.indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard> For IR Personnel> Vacancy Circular> Vacancy Circular_2026**

The applications, along with enclosures may be sent to :

Shri Ravi Shekhar, Joint Secretary/Deputation, Ministry of Railways, Room No. 152-J, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.

Last date for receipt of applications is **17.30 hrs. on 11.06.2026.** Applications received after the last date will not be entertained and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

ICMR- National Institute of NCD Epidemiology (ICMR-NINE), Bengaluru (Erstwhile ICMR-NCDIR)

Dept. of Health Research, MH&FW, Govt. of India,
Nirmal Bhawan-ICMR Complex (II Floor), Poojanahalli,
Kannamangala Post, Bengaluru–562 110, Telephone: 080-22176400

Advt. No. ICMR/NINE/Recruitment/2025-26 14-05-2026

NOTIFICATION FOR WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Applications are invited for Temporary/Contractual positions of Young Professional-I (AI/ML)–1 post, Young Professional-II (Public Policy & Evidance Translation)–1 post and Young Professional-II (Scientific Communication & Media)–1 post at ICMR-NINE, Bengaluru. Detailed advertisement can be downloaded from the websites **https://icmrnine.org/www.icmr.nic.in.** Please note that corrigendum / addendum / further information, if any, in respect of this advertisement will be published on our websites only.

Sd/- Director

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, Govt of India

SEAFARERS' WELFARE FUND SOCIETY

Tender Notice

The Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society, an autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India invites **Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of Portfolio Manager for managing SWFS funds.** The detailed RFP document is available on the **Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP)** at https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Interested firms meeting the eligibility criteria may submit their responses in accordance with the instructions provided in the RFP document.

Key Details:

- **Tender ID:** 2026_DGS_908292_1
- **Tender Ref No.:** SWFS46/105/2025-ACCOUNTS-SWFS
- **Last Date for Submission:** 08-June-2026 03:00 PM
- **Mode of Submission:** Online via CPPP

SWFS reserves the right to cancel or modify this request without assigning any reason thereof.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, Govt of India

SEAFARERS' WELFARE FUND SOCIETY

Tender Notice

The Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society, an autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India invites **Request for Proposals (RFP) for Appointment as Custodian of Securities for SWFS funds.** The detailed RFP document is available on the **Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP)** at https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Interested firms meeting the eligibility criteria may submit their responses in accordance with the instructions provided in the RFP document.

Key Details:

- **Tender ID:** 2026_DGS_908364_1
- **Tender Ref No.:** SWFS-46/88/2026-114
- **Last Date for Submission:** 09-June-2026 03:00 PM
- **Mode of Submission:** Online via CPPP

SWFS reserves the right to cancel or modify this request without assigning any reason thereof.

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Desh Ki Zarooraton Ke Liye

Business Partner for Multiple Projects at Iron Ore Karnataka

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MAHARASHTRA

CIN: U24109MH2023PLC411777

MOB: +91 8326713601 | WEBSITE: WWW.VEDANTAIRONANDSTEEL.COM

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Vedanta Limited, a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Limited, is the world's leading Oil & Gas and Metals Company, and one of the largest producers of Oil & Zinc, Lead, Silver, Copper, Iron Ore, Steel, and Aluminum & Power across India, South Africa, Zambia and Liberia.

Vedanta Iron & Steel Limited is a leading fully integrated Iron & Steel enterprise with a diversified portfolio that includes iron ore, steel, pig iron, DI pipes, TMT rods, ferro alloys, and cement.

Vedanta hereby invites **Expressions of Interest (EOI)** from competent, experienced, and financially sound parties for End-to-End execution of multiple projects for its Iron ore Mines at Karnataka.

Project-1 - 2 MTPA Iron Ore Processing Plant inside Mine Lease on EPC/BOO Basis
Project-2 – 3 MTPA Iron Ore Processing plant outside Mine Lease on EPC/BOO Basis
Project-3 – Water pipeline Project on EPC Basis for supply of water to all Iron Ore Processing plants

Interested parties may send their interest along with their company profile, financial statements, client list & other suitable credentials to sesa.purchase@vedanta.co.in by 30-May-2026

कार्यालयः नगर निगम, गोरखपुर

ई-निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम, गोरखपुर द्वारा नगर निगम के समस्त पंजीकृत/पात्र ठेकेदारों/अनुभवी फर्मों से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से मुख्यमंत्री ग्रीन रोड इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेन्ट स्कीम (अर्बन) फेज-3 (सप्लीमेन्ट्री) के अन्तर्गत 03 कार्य की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। शासनादेश सं0 3890/नौ-5-149सा/2019, नगर विकास अनुभाग-05 उ0प्र0 शासन लखनऊ, दिनांक 20 सितम्बर 20.09.2019 के क्रम में उक्त निविदा में नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में अपंजीकृत ठेकेदारों भी प्रतिभाग कर सकते है। सर्वन्यून निविदादाता होने पर सम्बन्धित ठेकेदार को नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में पंजीकरण की अर्हता पूर्ण कराकर नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में पंजीकरण कराना होगा। पंजीकरण की अर्हता सम्बन्धी विवरण/आवश्यक प्रपत्र की सूचना किसी भी कार्य दिवस में नगर निगम कार्यालय के निर्माण विभाग में देखी जा सकती है। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र उ0प्र0 की ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट **http://etender.up.nic.in** पर देखी जा सकती है। शासनादेश सं0 4848/नौ-5-2018-470सा/2018 नगर विकास अनुभाग-5 उ0प्र0 शासन, लखनऊ दिनांक 10 दिसम्बर, 2018 के क्रम में निविदा शुल्क + जी0एस0टी0 एवं धरोहर धनराशि वेबसाईट **http://etender.up.nic.in** पर ही ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से जमा की जायेगी। ई-निविदाएं निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती हैः-

क्र. सं.	नगर निगम	पैकेज सं.	अन्तर्निहित मार्ग	मार्ग की लम्बाई मी0 में	अनुमानित लागत जी0एस0टी0 रहित (रू0 लाख में)		कार्य की सम्पूर्ण अनुमानित लागत (रू0 लाख में)	निर्माण धरोहर धनराशि (लाख रू0 में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य जी.एस.टी. सहित (रू0)
					निर्माण	5 सालों का अनुरक्षण				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	गोरखपुर	Gkp/CMG/Ph3/Sup-01	बेतियाहाता चौक से अलहदादपुर तिराहा, टी0डी0एम0 तिराहे से ट्रांसपोर्ट नगर तक एवं रेन बसेरा रोड से एन0एच0 28 तक।	2200	5277.58	71.33	5348.91	107.00	15	59000.00
2		Gkp/CMG/Ph3/Sup-02	टी0डी0एम0 तिराहे से पांडेय हाता पुलिस चौकी होते हुए महेवा चुंगी एवं बर्फखाना रोड से हॉबर्ट बंधा तक।	1900	5151.20	64.95	5216.15	104.50	15	59000.00
3		Gkp/CMG/Ph3/Sup-03	अलहदादपुर तिराहे से रायगंज होते हुए घंटा घर तक।	1000	2143.20	22.96	2166.16	43.50	12	23600.00

ऑनलाईन निविदा का विवरण

क्र. सं.	विवरण	दिनांक एवं समय
1	वेबसाईट से निविदा डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	14.05.2026
2	प्री-बिड मिटिंग	
3	निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि	25.05.2026
4	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	26.05.2026

कार्यों का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें नगर निगम, गोरखपुर के वेबसाइट **www.gorakhpurnagarnigam.up.gov.in** गोरखपुर पर व ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट **http://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है साथ ही नगर निगम कार्यालय के नोटिस बोर्ड पर चस्पा कर दी गयी है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाईट एवं नोटिस बोर्ड पर देखी जा सकती है।

पत्रांकः 83/मु0अभि0/चार-सा0नि0वि0/2026-27
दिनांकः 12.05.2026

मुख्य अभियन्ता
नगर निगम, गोरखपुर

11001/50/2627

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
KHALLIKOTE UNITARY UNIVERSITY, BERHAMPUR

PIN CODE- 760 001, GANJAM, ODISHA

E-mail: registrar@kuu.ac.in Website: https://kuu.ac.in

No. 1384 Date. 13.05.2026

FACULTY RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited, in online mode, from eligible candidates to fill up regular posts of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor in the Departments of Anthropology, Biotechnology, Botany, Chemistry, Commerce, Computer Science & MCA, Economics, Education & B.Ed, English, Geology, History, Mathematics & Statistics, Odia, Physics, Political Science, Zoology at Khallikote Unitary University, Berhampur.

Detailed advertisements will be available on the University website **https://kuu.ac.in** as well as on the HIMS Portal **https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home** from 22.05.2026. The application process shall be conducted entirely in online mode through the HIMS Portal **https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home** from 22.05.2026 to 22.06.2026 (11.59 PM). After submitting the application online, a printout of the same, along with all supporting documents duly self-attested by the applicant, must be sent to the "Registrar, Khallikote Unitary University, Berhampur, Ganjam, Odisha, Pin-760001" **by Speed Post only** so as to reach the office on or before 30.06.2026 by 05.30 PM.

For details of vacant Posts, essential qualifications, other terms and conditions, please visit the University website **https://kuu.ac.in** and for application visit HIMS Portal **https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home.**

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

OIPR-11001/11125/1/26-27/0003

कार्यालयः नगर निगम गोरखपुर

पत्रांकः- 85/मु0अभि0/चार-सा0नि0वि0/2026-27 दिनांकः 12/05/2026

ई-निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम, गोरखपुर द्वारा नगर निगम के समस्त पंजीकृत/पात्र ठेकेदारों/अनुभवी फर्मों से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से मुख्यमंत्री ग्रीन रोड इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेन्ट स्कीम (अर्बन) फेज-3 के अन्तर्गत 01 कार्य की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। शासनादेश सं0 3890/नौ-5-149सा/2019, नगर विकास अनुभाग-05 उ0प्र0 शासन लखनऊ, दिनांक 20 सितम्बर 20.09.2019 के क्रम में उक्त निविदा में नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में अपंजीकृत ठेकेदारों भी प्रतिभाग कर सकते है। सर्वन्यून निविदादाता होने पर सम्बन्धित ठेकेदार को नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में पंजीकरण की अर्हता पूर्ण कराकर नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में पंजीकरण कराना होगा। पंजीकरण की अर्हता सम्बन्धी विवरण/आवश्यक प्रपत्र की सूचना किसी भी कार्य दिवस में नगर निगम कार्यालय के निर्माण विभाग में देखी जा सकती है। ई-निवदा प्रपत्र उ0प्र0 की ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। शासनादेश सं0 4848/नौ-5-2018-470सा/2018 नगर विकास अनुभाग-5 उ0प्र0 शासन, लखनऊ दिनांक 10 दिसम्बर 2018, के क्रम में निविदा शुल्क + जी0एस0टी0 एवं धरोहर धनराशि वेबसाईट http://etender.up.nic.in पर ही ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से जमा की जायेगी। ई-निविदाएँ निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र. सं.	नगर निगम	पैकेज सं.	अन्तर्निहित मार्ग	मार्ग की लम्बाई मी0 में	अनुमानित लागत जीएसटी रहित (रू0 लाख में)		कार्य की सम्पूर्ण अनुमानित लागत (रू0 लाख में)	निर्माण धरोहर धनराशि (लाख रू0 में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य जी0एस0टी0 सहित (रू0)
					निर्माण	5 सालों का अनुरक्षण				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	गोरखपुर	GKP/CMG/Ph03-03	स्पोर्ट कॉलेज रोड से (सेन्ट्रल बैंक) से इंद्रजीत बनर्जी के मकान होते हुए जयसवाल मार्ट से कैलाश शुक्ला के मकान के बगल पुलिया तक।	1100	1739.69	25.55	1765.24	35.30	12	23600.00

ऑनलाईन निविदा का विवरण

क्र0सं0	विवरण	दिनांक एवं समय
1	वेबसाईट से निविदा डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	14.05.26
2	प्री-बिड मिटिंग	
3	निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि	25.05.26
4	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	26.05.26

कार्यों का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें नगर निगम, गोरखपुर के वेबसाइट **www.gorakhpurnagarnigam.up.gov.in** गोरखपुर पर व ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट **http://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है साथ ही नगर निगम कार्यालय के नोटिस बोर्ड पर चस्पा कर दी गयी है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाईट एवं नोटिस बोर्ड पर देखी जा सकती है।

मुख्य अभियन्ता
नगर निगम, गोरखपुर

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking an investigation on the title in relation to the immovable properties admeasuring 6 Acres 39 Guntas (excluding 10 ½ Guntas of 'B' kharab land), converted for residential purposes comprised in Survey Nos. 106/11 to 106/22 and 106/2, all situated at Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and hereinafter referred to as '**Schedule Properties**'. The owners of the Schedule Properties mentioned in the Schedule hereinbelow have represented that they are the absolute owners of their respective portions in the Schedule Properties, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below, within a period of **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the owners have any right, title, interest or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties admeasuring 6 Acres 39 Guntas (excluding 10 ½ Guntas of 'B' kharab land), converted for residential purposes comprised in Survey Nos. 106/11 to 106/22 and 106/2, all situated at Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District described in the table below.

Sl No.	Sy. No.	Extent	Boundaries		Name of the Owner/s
A.	106/11	14 Guntas (no kharab land)	East by	Road and land bearing Survey No. 106/12;	Ms. Pooja N. Sthankiya
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 107;	
			North by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/10; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/22.	
B.	106/12	05 ½ Guntas (no kharab land)	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/13 and Road;	Mr. Rajesh R. Joshi
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/11;	
			North by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/10; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/22.	
C.	106/13	07 Guntas (no kharab land)	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/14 and Road;	Mr. Tejash P. Joshi
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/12;	
			North by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/10; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/22.	
D.	106/14	07 Guntas (excluding ½ Gunta of 'B' kharab land)	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/15 and Road;	Mr. Ketan K. Rajyaguru
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/13;	
			North by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/10; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/22.	
E.	106/15	07 Guntas (excluding 1 Gunta of 'B' kharab land)	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/16 and Road;	Mr. Ketan R. Joshi
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/14;	
			North by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/11; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/22.	
F.	106/16	08 Guntas (no kharab land)	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/17 and Road;	Mr. Nikhil K. Rajyaguru
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/15;	
			North by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/10; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/22.	
G.	106/17	21 Guntas (no kharab land)	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/18 and Road;	Mrs. Seema B. Joshi
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/16;	
			North by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/10; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/22.	
H.	106/18	21 Guntas (excluding 1 Gunta of 'B' kharab land)	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/19 and Road;	Mrs. Meeta N. Joshi
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/17;	
			North by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/10; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/22.	
I.	106/19	14 Guntas (no kharab land)	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/20 and Road;	Ms. Pooja N. Sthankiya
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/18;	
			North by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/10; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/22.	
J.	106/20	14 Guntas (no kharab land)	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/21 and Road;	Mrs. Manjula M. Sthankiya
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/19;	
			North by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/10; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/22.	
K.	106/21	21 Guntas (no kharab land)	East by	Road and Land bearing Survey No. 104;	Mr. Darshan N. Sthankiya
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/20;	
			North by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/10; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/22.	
L.	106/22	18 ½ Guntas (excluding½ Gunta of 'B' kharab land)	East by	Road and Land bearing Survey No. 104;	Mr. Nikhil M. Sthankiya
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 107;	
			North by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/11 to 106/21; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/2.	
M.	106/2	3 Acres 01 Gunta (excluding 7 ½ Gunta of kharab land)	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 104;	Mr. Nikhil M. Sthankiya
			West by	Land bearing Survey No. 107;	
			North by	Road and Land bearing Survey No. 22; and	
			South by	Land bearing Survey No. 106/23.	

Sd/-
Mr. Srinivas B.R., Partner
DSK Legal,
Prestige Loka, No. 201, 2nd Floor,
No. 7/1 & 7/7, Brunton Road, Craig Park Layout,
Bengaluru – 560025. Tel: 080-69548770.

Date : 14.05.2026
Place : Bengaluru

MSME-TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
एमएसएमई प्रौद्योगिकी विकास केंद्र
Process & Product Development Centre
प्रक्रिया एवं उत्पाद विकास केंद्र
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre Thiruvalla Organizes

PPDC

Online program on
Advanced AI Techniques for Cybersecurity Operations (From SOC Analyst to AI Security Expert)

COURSE CONTENT: 1. Cybersecurity Evolution & AI Foundations **2.** Machine Learning for Threat Detection **3.** AI for Security Monitoring & SIEM Enhancement **4.** Generative AI for SOC Operations **5.** AI-Powered Phishing, Malware & Fraud Detection **6.** Security Automation with AI + SOAR **7.** Cloud Security + AI **8.** Adversarial AI & AI Security Risks **9.** Hands-On Mini Project **10.** Career Transformation + Capstone.

Date/ दिनांक: 23,24,30,31 May & 7th June
Time/ समय: 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Fees/ शुल्क: 4720/- (Including GST)
Contact Number: 9944971623, 8129988725
Website: ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

Scan QR for Online Registration

Government of Karnataka

DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY

Office of the Director, No. 49, KhanijaBhavan, South Block,
Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001 Phone No:22384134/35

No. DMG/TS/2026-27/IND0006 Date:13.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bids are invited in Two cover system from eligible registered companies/Firm /agencies for SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT FOR CHEMICAL LABORTARY at Head Office, Department of Mines and Geology at Bengaluru.

Tender document can be downloaded from the KPP Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.** Last date for submission of bids is **12.06.2026, 17.00 hrs.** Bids shall be submitted online through KPP Portal platform only.

Sd/-
Tender Inviting Authority
Department of Mines and Geology

DIPR/CP/642/NR/2026-27

TVS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED

Regd office: "Chaitanya", No. 12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006
Website:www.tvsmotor.com Telephone No. (044) 28332115 Email:contactus@tvsmotor.com
CIN:L35921TN1992PLC022845

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter ended		Year ended		Quarter ended		Year ended	
		31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
		(Unaudited)		(Audited)		(Unaudited)		(Audited)	
1	Total income from operations	12,807.63	9,550.44	47,270.32	36,251.32	15,052.73	11,542.00	56,069.52	44,089.01
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	1,358.40	1,009.56	4,944.89	3,521.54	1,298.13	992.88	4,871.82	3,505.35
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	1,358.40	1,009.56	4,903.52	3,521.54	1,298.13	992.88	4,821.74	3,505.35
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	997.70	760.68	3,615.22	2,633.89	819.55	697.51	3,186.43	2,379.81
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income /(Loss) (after tax)]	1,026.04	800.98	3,780.58	2,666.08	1,019.00	733.01	3,693.34	2,427.03
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face value of Re.1/- each)	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	11,186.79	9,849.71	-	-	9,516.74	8,455.87
8	Security Premium Account	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
9	Networth	11,348.62	10,006.97	11,348.62	10,006.97	9,187.21	8,481.39	9,187.21	8,481.39
10	Outstanding Debt	2,733.36	1,441.38	2,733.36	1,441.38	27,697.48	23,500.76	27,697.48	23,500.76
11	Outstanding Non-Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares	1,900.35	-	1,900.35	-	1,900.35	-	1,900.35	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio (Times) (Debt includes NCRPS)	0.24	0.15	0.24	0.14	2.60	2.76	2.60	2.76
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Re. 1/- each) (not annualised) (i) Basic & Diluted (in Rs.) from continuing operations (ii) Basic & Diluted (in Rs.) from discontinuing operations (iii) Basic & Diluted (in Rs.) from continuing and discontinuing operations	 21.00 - 21.00	 15.78 0.23 16.01	 76.09 - 76.09	 54.81 0.63 55.44	 16.24 - 16.24	 13.41 0.23 13.64	 63.53 - 63.53	 46.42 0.63 47.05
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	3.82	7.13	4.77	5.18	2.12	2.34	3.03	2.88
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	29.37	37.16	29.64	29.61	18.50	18.06	17.75	14.36
18	Current Ratio (Times)	0.54	0.61	0.54	0.61	0.97	1.12	0.97	1.12
19	Long term debt to working capital (Times)	-	-	-	-	2.46	1.81	2.46	1.81
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio (Times)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Current liability ratio (Times)	0.88	0.84	0.88	0.84	0.70	0.60	0.70	0.60
22	Total debts to total assets ratio (Times)	0.12	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	28.08	28.08	28.08	28.08	25.66	24.80	25.66	24.80
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	20.37	16.64	20.37	16.64	14.31	11.46	14.31	11.46
25	Operating Margin (%)	13.1	14.0	12.9	12.3	11.3	12.1	11.5	10.8
26	Net Profit Margin (%)	7.8	8.0	7.6	7.3	5.4	6.0	5.7	5.4

Notes:

1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.tvsmotor.com).

2 Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

3 The Detailed Financial Results of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2026 can be accessed through the QR code.

For TVS Motor Company Limited
Sd/-
Sudarshan Venu
Chairman

Date : 13.05.2026

THEY RUN VILLAGES. WHY NOT ASSEMBLIES?

From Rajasthan to Telangana, elected women in local bodies ask why parties trust them with villages — but not assembly tickets, writes **Himanshi Dhawan**

Tarun Rawat

> I was never forced to observe ghoonghat. When I reached the village I asked myself, 'Where have I come? What have I done?'
> —SUSHMA VERMA | SARPANCH OF RATA KHURD NEAR RAJASTHAN'S ALWAR

For Sushma Verma, it felt as if her life was going in reverse. For the 30-year-old, a business administration graduate from Rajasthan's Alwar, settling down in the city and seeking out a career was a no-brainer. Instead, in 2017, she was married off into a family in Rata Khurd village.

It was just 24km from Alwar, but it felt as if it were light years away.

Among the first things to strike Verma was the fact that she — like other young *bahus* — was expected to cover her face with a traditional *ghoonghat* in the presence of elders. This was totally alien to her. At Alwar, she was never even asked once to cover up. And, as if this weren't enough, there were other unspoken rules — such as a no-sitting or -speaking, when elders were around.

"I was never forced to observe these practices, but I had a sinking feeling when I came to Rata Khurd. I asked myself, 'Where have I come? What have I done?'," she says.

But Verma is no longer plagued by self-doubt. In 2020, when the village panchayat seat was reserved for women, her husband and in-laws encouraged her to run for office. Verma was initially reluctant. "I could not imagine standing in front of people and speaking," she recalls. But she did. And she won. The next few years were spent in repairing the village roads, in extending the local school from Class 10 to Class 12, and lobbying for a college, so that students didn't have to travel to Alwar or Khairtal for higher education.

Three Tiers, Three Decades...

Verma's tryst with local governance was possible because of two constitutional amendments, the 73rd and 74th, of 1992, which came into force from the following year. The amendments not only introduced the three-tier system of gram panchayat, panchayat samiti, and zilla parishad, but also established a framework for gender representation in local governance, mandating at least one-third (33%) of total seats in all rural panchayats reserved for women.

In the more than three decades that have passed since, individual states have increased the women's quota, with over 20 states now having 50% women's representation in their local bodies. A recent RBI report estimates that India has over 1.4 million women representatives in various local bodies.

Shashi Bala, sarpanch of Bhiduki maha gram panchayat in Haryana's Palwal district, is one of them. Bala comes from a family of sarpanches and district judges, but until the village panchayat became a reserved seat, no one had thought of fielding her as a candidate. "I was busy as a college lecturer and my satsangs," she says. "But once I won the seat in 2022, I understood the power of the election. It was tough, because there were 14 women in the fray." For Bala, who had unsuccessfully fought the MLA election a few years earlier, this victory was a vindication of sorts.

Yet, these women's hard-won battles appear to have lost some of their shine. For Bala, watching last month's Parliament debate on the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill brought the realisation that she may never again get the chance to fight for an MLA seat. "Had they wanted to pass the amendment, they would have done it. But they didn't," she says.

Ellandula Thirupathamma, sarpanch of Chinnapendyala in Telangana, inaugurates a road

The recently concluded state polls saw heated debate over the women's vote bank moving from one party to another, but little discussion on the minuscule number of women legislators who won. There were 7,829 candidates in the fray, but only 1,019 women among them. And only 8% of the fielded women won.

So, why does political empowerment abruptly stop for women? Women sarpanches, who have held political office, bristle at the recent failure of the bill to operationalise women's reservation. The govt passed the Women's Reservation Bill in 2023 but made it a horizontal reservation, incumbent upon increasing the size of the Lok Sabha following a fresh census and delimitation. Last month, govt attempted and failed to bring in changes by proposing that the delimitation be advanced, placing a huge question mark over the struggles and aspirations of women in local bodies.

'No One Wants To Share Power'

Tara Krishnaswamy, co-founder of Political Shakti, a volunteer collective that works to increase women's participation in politics, says the bill failed because no party or govt is willing to share power. "Women could be given reservation off the bat, without the conditions. Just as political parties give tickets to OBC candidates in areas where OBCs are in the majority, or accommodate different caste arithmetic, they could give women tickets. Women form 50% of the demographic. Yet, no party thinks it is necessary to give tickets to women candidates, beyond the usual tokenism," she says.

Krishnaswamy feels there is "no doubt" that there are deserving women candidates. What there isn't, she says, is space for growth. "There are plenty of women, who would do no worse than men, if they were given MLA tickets, because they have already fought and won the local elections. And yet, they are not picked."

A study of women's representation in UP indicates the pervasiveness of this glass ceiling. The study found that between 2015 and 2021, women's representation increased from 45% to 53.7% in gram pradhans, from 33% to 54.2% among block pramukhs, and from 33% to 56% among zilla panchayat chairpersons. However, representation among members stagnated at around 24-25%. It ends on a disappointed note: "Reservation has enhanced women's visibility and empowerment in local governance, though structural and social barriers persist at the grassroots."

Rekha Jadhav, sarpanch of Herwad gram panchayat in Maharashtra's Kolhapur, another reluctant entrant in politics, says she had high hopes of the govt bringing in the bill. Rekha worked with a local activist to stop ostracisation of widows. "Before the gram panchayat resolution, widows were segregated and treated badly, not allowed to wear jewellery, kept away from weddings and auspicious events," she says. Jadhav's interventions were so effective that they became a model for other villages in the state.

But, having fought and won polls, worked for the community, many are asking whether there is a way ahead. "We had high hopes from the (amendment) bill this time," Jadhav says.

The Road Ahead

The thing is, had there not been reservation for ST women for the sarpanch post at Nadimi Thanda, a tribal hamlet in Telangana's Kamareddy district, Banoth Laxmi says she would never have even thought of contesting in the recently concluded local body elections.

A school dropout who studied till Class 5, she says it was her husband's reputation as a former upasarpanch that helped her win.

"If not for the reservation, my husband would have contested," the 33-year-old says. "But that doesn't mean I am not interested in politics. I have got the opportunity now." She has now set her sights higher, aiming to contest the mandal parishad territorial constituency elections — a step up from the gram panchayat, and which means greater power and influence.

A similar story played out in Jangaon district, where Ellandula Thirupathamma, 50, was elected sarpanch of Chinnapendyala after the post there was reserved for an SC woman.

Three decades after women's reservation was introduced in local bodies, such stories continue to reflect how quotas are shaping political entry points for first-generation women leaders. Thirupathamma feels not many women can become leaders at the national level without reservation. "That is the situation, unfortunately. Many major parties do not give tickets to women. But having 33% reservation will force them to do so, and more women will reach the assembly," she says. She readily concedes that even though she managed to win as an independent candidate in the sarpanch election, repeating the feat at the assembly or Lok Sabha elections would be difficult.

In Haryana, Shashi Bala walks down the village road — newly laid and paved, thanks to her. "I can build roads," she sighs, "but I cannot see the way ahead."

— Inputs from Nirupa Vatyam in Hyderabad, Umamaheshwar Rao in Visakhapatnam, and Abhijeet Patil in Kolhapur

> If not for women's reservation, my husband would have contested. But I have got the opportunity now
> —BANOTH LAXMI | SARPANCH OF NADIMI THANDA, KAMIREDDY DISTRICT IN TELANGANA

Banoth Laxmi (standing, centre), sarpanch of Nadimi Thanda in Telangana, at a primary school in the district

India has around 30 lakh elected representatives in local govts. About 14.5 lakh, or 46%, are women. Also, even though the minimum reservation is 33%, several states have moved to 50% reservation

Source: PIB

SHARE OF WOMEN MLAs

Assembly	Total Seats	Women MLAs	% of Women MLAs
Top Three			
Chhattisgarh	90	19	21%
Jharkhand	81	12	15
Tripura	60	9	15
Bottom Three			
Puducherry	30	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	68	1	1
Nagaland	60	2	3

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
Phone No.-96461-18774, Email id:- semeteringpatiala@gmail.com

Tender Enquiry No. MQP-262/2026-27/PO(M) dated 08.05.2026

Chief Engineer/Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites e-tender for Procurement of 'ISI' Marked LT AC, Single Phase 2-wire, Whole Current, DLMS compliant, (Category D-1) Static Intelligent Energy Smart Meters of rating 10-60 Amps (or better), 50Hz, 240 V of Accuracy Class-1 (in default Pre-Paid mode) with 'Optical Port', AMI system & Communication infrastructure with a network platform across Punjab.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 09.05.2026, 11:00 AM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

C-571/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/11471

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813,
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number: 9646117606)

Tender Inquiry No. 40/MM-I/TGP-134(XII)/O&M/GHTP/2026

Dy. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Mtc. Circle-I/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for the work of Routine, Preventive, Breakdown Maintenance and overhauling jobs (Mechanical jobs) of Boiler Feed pumps, Condensate Extraction Pumps, CW Pumps, Vacuum Pumps, Turbine Aux. Cooling Water Pumps, BACW Pumps, Boiler fill Pumps, Hotwell Make Up Pumps, Stator Water Make Up Pumps, ACW Pumps, SGDMCW Pumps. TGDMCW Pumps, TG Cycle Make Up Pumps etc. of 2X210MW and 2X250MW Units of Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant (GHTP), Lehra Mohabbat monthly lump sum basis for period of two years at GHTP. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 14-05-2026 from 11:00 hrs. onwards

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

GHTP-47/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/11481

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ವಿಭಾಗ (ಉ.ಕ)
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: midhly@yahoo.co.in ಫೋ.ನಂ: 08284-220113
ನಂ:ಕಾನಿಅ/ಸಣಿಮಿ/ತಾವಿ/ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್/4702/2026-27/245 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07/05/2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್) ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-1&4 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿ ನವೀಕರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ-2000 ಮತ್ತು ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಂತೆ KW-1&4 (ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ) ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ "ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ನ" ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಇಂಟೆಂಡ್ ನಂ: 11493 2ನೇ ಕರೆ (ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) (2) ಇಂಟೆಂಡ್ ನಂ: 11504 (3) ಇಂಟೆಂಡ್ ನಂ: 11795 (4) ಇಂಟೆಂಡ್ ನಂ: 11478

ಬಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ವೆಬ್ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13-05-2026 ರ ನಂತರದಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-05-2026 ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಚೇರಿ ಅಥವಾ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22-05-2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.15 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25-05-2026 ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ನ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-1&4 ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ರಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್ಸೈಟನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿವರಗಳೇ ಅಂತಿಮ.

ವಿ.ಸೂ: ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-, (ಎಂ. ನಾಗರಾಜ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ವಿಭಾಗ (ಉ.ಕ)

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/122/26-27 Dt: 13.05.2026

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813,
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number: 96461-18774)

RFP/Tender Enquiry No. MQP-263/2026-27/PO(M) | Dated: 08.05.2026

Chief Engineer/Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, invites E-tender for Design, Supply, Testing, Commissioning, Integration, Reading, Analysis and 5 year O&M of 'ISI' marked, LT AC 3-Phase, 4-Wire, Whole Current Static watt-hour DLMS Category 'D2' compliant SMART METERS with rating 10-60 Amps, 50 Hz, 415 volts (3x240 volts) Accuracy Class-1 having Lag only protocol with 'Optical Port' AMI System & Communication infrastructure with a network platform across Punjab. For detailed NIT and tender specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 09.05.2026 from 11:00 AM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C 572/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/11472

Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited

Detailed Notice Inviting Tender Date - 12/05/2026

NIT No. & Date	Description of Work
e-Tender no. RSMM/CO/GGM(Cont) Cont-03/2026-27 dated 12.05.2026 UBN No. MML2627SLOB00033	"Loading of limestone gitti of various sizes into trippers/dumpers from crusher hopper (s) and or different stacks lying at company's Sanu Limestone mines (Sanu-1 & Sanu-2), Distt. Jaisalmer, its transportation from mines to railway siding at sanu railway station, and its unloading, stacking, watch & ward and mechanized loading of limestone gitti into railway wagons using front end loaders etc. contract value Rs. 14,730.00 lacs, EMD in Rs. 295.00 Lacs D.D./BG, Tender Fees Rs. 4720/-

Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit us at our website www.rsmm.com or www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or Sr. Manager (Contract) on above address.

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2683 DGM (P&A)

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Traffic Engineering Cell Division, Room No.09, Ground Floor,
Annex Building-3, Greater Bengaluru Authority Office Premises,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No:BCCC/EE/TEC/Tend/02/2025-26/Call-2 Date: 13-05-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering Cell Division, BCCC, Bengaluru invites Online Tenders from eligible & Experienced Private Operators for Hiring, Operation and Maintenance of using latest Self-Propelled Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines on Per-Kilometre Basis for the Work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description
1	Hiring, Operation and Maintenance of using latest Self-Propelled Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines with Suction of Capacity not less then 5 Cubic Meter and Required No. of Tipper Trucks including Manpower, Fuel, Maintenance and all Consumables, for Sweeping Length of 280 Km of Roads within Bengaluru Central City Corporation Limits on Per-Kilometre Payment Basis. **Duration: 7 years, EMD Amount (in Rs.): Rs. 36,00,000/- (Rs. 1,00,000/- through e-Payment of the following i.e., Online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the Balance Rs. 35,00,000/- by e-Bank Guarantee / Bank Guarantee / FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank)**

Calendar of Events: 1) The Tender shall be Processed the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** 2) Last Date to Upload Pre Bid Queries: **22-05-2026 upto 15.30 Hours in KPP Portal Only.** 3) Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **25-05-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Zone-1, 18th Floor, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560001.** 4) Last Date for Submission of the Bids: **29-05-2026 upto 17.00 Hours.** 5) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **01-06-2026 at 11.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Traffic Engineering Cell Division, BCCC.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA)
9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

No:BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/110/2026-27 Dated:12.05.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER - (Call-2) (Through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders in Two Stage Tender System from eligible contractors for the work of Sinking of 6.5 inch dia new borewell with necessary accessories at various locations of Mahadevapura Constituency (110 Villages) coming under AEE(BW&PS)-2-2 Sub Division

Amount Put to Tender: Rs.398.21 Lakhs, EMD: Rs.5,97,500/-

Last date and time for Receipt of tenders is on **29.05.2026** upto **16:00** hours. The Technical bids will be opened on **30.05.2026** at **16:00** hours. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours. **Sd/-**

DIPR/CP/641/CCL/2026-27 **Chief Engineer (Design & QA)**

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-2,
Room No-315, Third floor, Mini Vidhana Soudha,
Yalahanka, Bengaluru-64.

No: EE/QA/QC/Z-2/BNCC/TEND/01/26-27 Date:13-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Quality Assurance/Quality Control division, Zone-2, invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below works through KPP portal by the Executive Engineer QA/QC, Zone -2, BNCC.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision & Quality control for Comprehensive Development and Improvements to Roads and Drains at 1st Block, 2nd Block Dinnur and surrounding area in Ward No-68 JC Nagara. **Project Cost: ₹.300.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.1,250.00**
2.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision & Quality control for Comprehensive Development to Asphalt Roads and Drains at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th cross, CIL Layout and surrounding and Improvements to CC Roads and Drains at Yagappa Layout and surrounding areas in Ward No-64 Vishwanatha Nagenahalli. **Project Cost: ₹.300.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.3,750.00**
3.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision & Quality control for Comprehensive Development to Improvements to Roads and Drains at Ganganagara Roads and Drains in Ganganagara Extension HGH Layout, MLA Layout and surrounding Areas in Ward No-67 Ganganagara **Project Cost: ₹.300.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.3,750.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal GOK from **20-05-2026** at **4:00 pm** (2) Pre-Bid Meeting on **22-05-2026** at **11:30** am. (3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **28-05-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Technical Bid is **29-05-2026** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(QA/QC), Zone-2, BNCC

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER NAGAR NIGAM, BAREILLY

NIT NO.: CMGRID/ 45/ C.E./N.N.B./2026-27 Date: 12.05.2026

E- Procurement Tender Notice

Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Bareilly Invites percentage-rate bids on http://etender.up.nic.in from eligible bidders for the following package under the CM-GRID Scheme.

Sl No.	Nagar Nigam	Package No.	Included Roads	Length of Roads (KM)	Estimated Cost Excluding GST (Rs. Lakh)		Total Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakh)	Duration of Construction Work (in Months)	Tender Fee Including GST
					Construction Cost	Maintance Cost for 5 Years				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
01	Nagar Nigam Bareilly	BLY/ CMG 2025-26/ PKG-01	Integrated Development and upgradation work from Shyamganj Bridge to Maharishi Kashyap Square.	1.50	2520.12	44.91	2555.02	51.30	15	41300.00

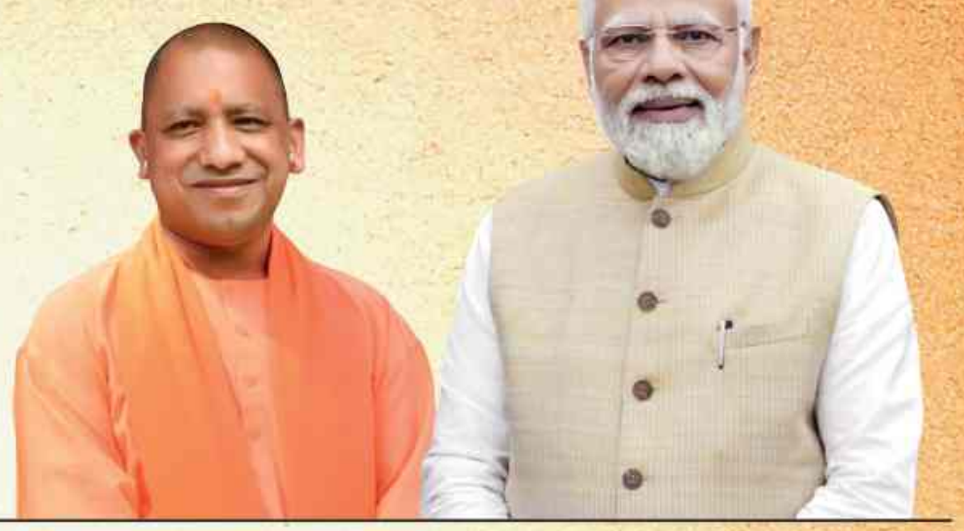
Sl No.	Events	Date/ Time
1	Availability of tender documents on E-tender in E-Tendering portal	Date 12.05.2026, Time: 03:00 PM
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Venue	18.05.2026, 03:00 PM at 3rd Floor, URIDA, Sector-7, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow- 226010
3	Last date of Submission of e-Bids on E-Tender Portal	21.05.2026, 03:00 PM
4	Date of Opening of tender	21.05.2026, 04:00 PM
5	Tender ID	CMGRIDS

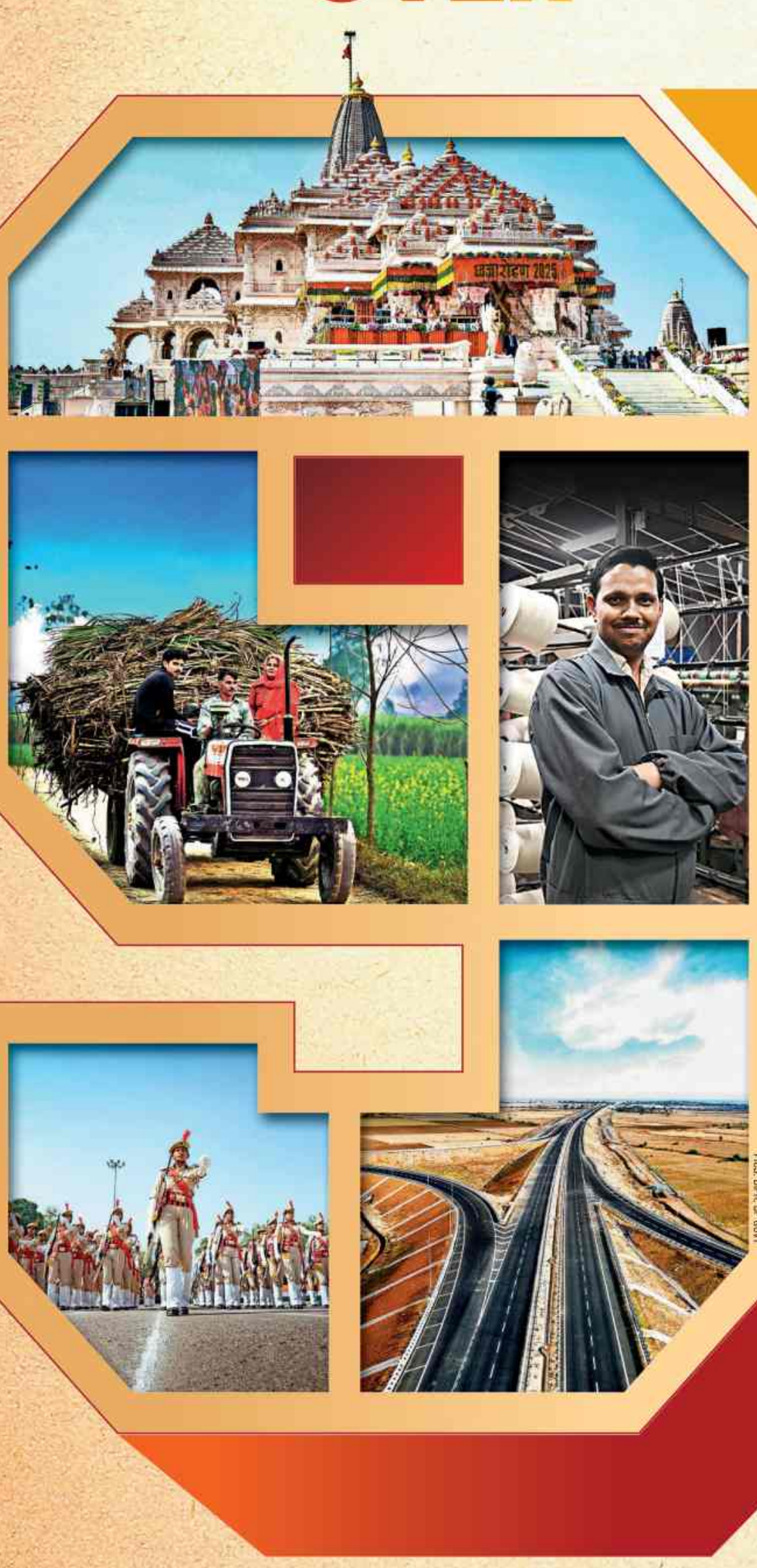
The Bareilly Municipal Corporation reserves the right to issue addendums/corrigendum online as per ITV Clause-10 which will not be published in any newspaper. All prospective bidders are advised to regularly monitor the e-tendering portal.
For more information, please log on to http://etender.up.nic.in and download the bid document.
The Security deposit and tender form price for the said tender must be paid through the payment Link available on the Bareilly Municipal Corporation website- https://bareillye-tender.com and the receipt must be enclosed in an envelope.
Any Questions regarding the tender may be sent to the following e-mail address up to 24 hours prior to the scheduled pre-bid meeting, until 18.05.2026 so that relevant replies can be presented at the meeting to be held on that date chiefengineernnb@gmail.com and urida.qoup@gmail.com
No Question / complaint regarding the tender will be considered after 19.05.2026, Time 3:00 PM.

(CHIEF ENGINEER)
NAGAR NIGAM BAREILLY

UTTAR PRADESH'S

DEFINING TRANSFORMATION OVER





PICS: DIPR, UP GOVT

YEARS

- A new cultural awakening reflects UP's progress
- Governance reforms mirror state's progress
- Women empowerment and well-being have taken centre stage
- Improved law & order has instilled investor confidence and security for the comman man
- Youth empowerment and skill enhancement are generating new avenues of employment
- Agricultural prosperity has helped state farmers become economically empowered
- Transformative infrastructure and development have leveraged industrial development
- Industrial growth and investments are generating new opportunities for revenue and jobs
- Emphasis on tourism infra has made UP a preferred travel destination

GOLDEN ERA OF REFORM, RESOLVE AND RESULTS

Over nine transformative years, Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a cultural resurgence alongside strengthened governance and administrative reforms that have enhanced transparency and efficiency. Focused efforts on women empowerment have improved safety, health and financial inclusion, while better law and order has boosted public and investor confidence. Youth empowerment through skill development and employment initiatives has created new opportunities, complemented by growing agricultural prosperity for the state's farmers. Major infrastructure expansion, including expressways and airports, has accelerated industrial growth and investments. Meanwhile, tourism and MSME sectors have flourished, driving inclusive development and positioning the state as a dynamic and forward-looking economic hub.

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

A thought for today

In the absence of gold standard, there's no way to protect savings from confiscation through inflation. There's no safe store of value

ALAN GREENSPAN

Sell Some Acres

Land assets of GOI and its agencies run into lakhs of acres. Selling some can ease fiscal pressure now

If ministers have decided to travel in smaller convoys, and bureaucrats are conducting business without logging air miles, we can't complain. For, frugality is always a virtue – not just in a crisis. As George Eliot said of a wealthy family: "They never suffered a pinch of salt to be wasted." The belief that "money saved is money earned" is also universal. So, let these habits stick even when Hormuz crisis ends, and good times return. Because every barrel of oil, every ingot of gold, and every bag of fertiliser we don't import, makes rupee stronger, boosting its purchasing power.

But thrift is good only till it eliminates waste. Putting essentials on the chopping block is silly. Should govt cut back on infra works now, to shore up finances? No, for that would hurt employment, income, and demand, slowing down the economy even more. It would also delay the process of making India an attractive investment destination for businesses. Likewise, we have argued against burgeoning cash transfers before, but stopping them now could increase hardship for poor families, especially when agri prices are likely to shoot up due to a fertiliser crunch.

When it comes to regulating consumption, rather waste, price signals are more effective than moral positions. So, Centre's decision to hike import duty on gold and silver, from 6% to 15%, is a good idea. It will not only curb demand, and conserve forex, but also leave more money in govt's hands for public works. Watch out for increased smuggling, though.

And public works could be key to sustaining growth this year, and maybe a part of next year as well. So, govt will need more revenue. Hiking taxes is the easy way, with one big risk – reduced private consumption demand. Instead, govt should dust some of the ideas Niti Aayog has floated over the past few years, such as National Monetisation Pipeline that can bring in many lakhs of crore rupees. For instance, govt has monetised ₹5.3L cr worth of core assets, such as coal blocks, over the past four years. But monetisation of non-core assets, especially spare land, has moved slowly, despite the formation of National Land Monetisation Corporation in 2022. GOI, including major ministries like Railways and Defence, owns roughly 15,500 sqkm, or roughly 38L acres. There was a proposal last year to encash 81,000 acres of spare cantonment land, worth some ₹8L cr. Set it rolling now.

Let's Go For A Ride

Ride-shares need regulatory framework, and change in public attitude

Carpooling makes a lot of sense – it's cheaper, greener, and you get the comfort of a car ride without buying one. Yet, it's simply not taken off in our metros. Yes, intercity ride-sharing is picking up, but too slowly, given the pace required, both for environment, and to do our bit to tide over this edition of West Asia's conflict. After PM's nudge encouraging carpooling, it's as good a time as any to push for ride-sharing. There are two aspects. While carpooling typically means colleagues or peers sharing a car, ride-shares extend to sharing cab services. Till the pandemic, in several developed countries, ride-sharing was common for young adults – inclined to be more conscious about emissions, environment, and spending. France is Europe's car pooling leader. Popular in Spain, the young are all for carpooling, for all commutes. Ditto for Germany and Netherlands. Traffic congestion in Brussels pushed local govt to organise carpool lanes and ride-sharing programmes.

It's been about five years since Centre issued guidelines for ride-pooling aggregators. But across states, barring Maharashtra, ride-sharing remains a gray area. Govts, especially in a city-state like Delhi, must follow through to ensure PM's message is scaffolded by a rules-based framework. That apart, a shift in commuter attitudes is essential. Across our metros, private cars are typically used to drive to work, average occupancy is 1.5 people – grossly inefficient. There are several 'very desi' hangups that have contributed to either carpooling, or ride-sharing, not taking off. First off, car *ownership* is a status symbol. Second, many have reservations about the 'class profile' of fellow travellers. Third, punctuality is not a value, so people fret that latecomers and inflexibility of routes can disrupt timelines. But, primarily, and first and foremost, what's required is availability of reliable ride-shares that operate smoothly, safely and legally. It's upon states to make this ride happen.

Clack, sizzle, repeat

New diarchy of mahjong and benne dosa

Bachi Karkaria

Snob society is now ruled by tile and *tawa*. In air-kissed exclusion zones, the talk is no longer of shiatsu massages and ethically sourced coffee. Even matcha is no match for mahjong and benne dosa – the dual addiction of SoBo, SoDel & Co.

It's a socio-cultural phenomenon. Babes have jilted their gym instructors to join mahjong classes; yummy mummies and rummy aunties alike have succumbed to this new obsessive compulsive social order. Benne has not only changed ignorant 'Davangere Where?' to adulatory 'Davangere Wow!', it has subverted the dosa ecosystem. In Mumbai, its upper-class acolytes no longer have to slum it to sweaty, crowded joints in Matunga; benne now boasts exclusive, downtown spaces with in-your-face branding and concealed lighting. Even South Indians line up *en famille* in brilliant conjeevaram and fragrant mallipoo, corner-eyeing the white linen-blue jeans Guccipudi set.

It's a geo-political coup. With mahjong, China has breached the LoC without a single shot; no force, only foursomes; no treaty, only the loser's entreaties for one more redemptive round. Benne has broken through the last post of the South-North/West/East barrier. Forget sourdough and smashed avo, Kannadiga benne is also ending the long reign of the TamBrahm *dosai*. No wonder then that benne queues rival those for a BTS concert. And difficultly scheduled mahjong session vs first-day-first-show of *The Devil Wears Prada* was an agonising choice.

erratica

Being 'with it' is never without pain. Neither is for the faint-hearted. In mahjong 'passive aggressive' has reached clinical levels; at benne tables someone will keel over from a cholesterol spike. Indeed both are 'war by other means'. Mahjong is about alliances, strategy and covert tactics. Benne partners are chosen for battle-ready elbows and table-grabbing hands.

Both crazes cater to what we love: competition, community, drama – and deception. Mahjong pretends 'it's just a game' while plotting murder. The yet-hopeful don't know the sheer grit behind the satisfied glow of the benne eater.

One more connect. Alien mahjong masks Chanakyan ruthlessness with Krishn-like detachment. Native benne reflects the innate Indian ability to butter up with the intention to fry.

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Alec Smart said: "Our national exams boat has much more than a 'leak'."

Pricing Our Way Out

GOI should let the economy adjust to new energy market realities, and raise pump prices. Lower domestic fuel consumption will also mean less dollar demand & help shore up the rupee

Neelkanth Mishra

Well into the third month of the Iran war, earlier assumptions of a short-lived conflict, have now been negated. Over the past week, even as physical shortages of oil seem to have eased, oil's price for March 2027 delivery has risen nearly 10% to $83/barrel. It is now prudent to start measuring the impact on the economy, and for policy to begin adjusting.

To estimate growth rates going forward, it is important to assess where we were before the war.

Back in 2024-25, the economy grew at 7.1% in real terms, despite significant and simultaneous fiscal and monetary tightening. This implies that underlying economic momentum was much stronger than 7.1%. Monetary headwinds continued till the first half of last year, when easing monetary conditions, and GST cuts, boosted economic momentum. This year, with nearly no fiscal tightening, and monetary tailwinds, pre-war, real growth was expected to be 7.5%. Indicators in March and April showed growth was better than expected despite the war dominating headlines, with strong growth in autos, cement, credit, and consumer goods.

Let us now measure the impact of the energy price shock. Major forms of dense energy imported by India are crude oil, natural gas, fertilisers and edible oil. Making some assumptions to simplify the sensitivity analysis, we find that if oil prices stay $15 per barrel over last year's average of $70 for a year, the impact would be $40bn, or 1% of GDP. At last few weeks' average of around $100/barrel, headwinds are at the pace of 2% of GDP.

This 'terms of trade' shock – the need to pay $80bn more for energy, meaning there is less to buy locally produced goods and services – will be split between a rise in fiscal deficit and economic growth.

The cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel, continuing losses at oil marketing companies (OMCs), and subsidies on LPG and fertiliser together account for additional monthly subsidy of around ₹40-45k cr. This has defrayed 1.2% of GDP impact so far.

The remaining 0.8% of GDP has flowed through market channels – prices of plastics and chemicals, for example, are up sharply, curtailing demand. Whereas the sharp increase in plastic prices has effectively shut down plastic furniture manufacturing, plastic use for packaging is relatively unaffected so far (usually a small part of the end-product cost, and so, can be passed on or even absorbed).

Govt's economic stabilisation fund of ₹1tn should last for 2.5 months at the current pace. If oil prices remain elevated, they will need to start raising fuel prices at the pump and LPG prices. A ₹10 per litre increase for diesel and petrol would be a 0.4 percentage point of GDP annually – this would reduce the fiscal deficit run-rate and bring down growth.

A much more important constraint is the availability of dollars. While RBI's foreign currency reserves can meet a temporary problem in balance of payments (demand vs supply of dollars), recent trends indicate panic has set in, with dollar shortages being much worse than what fundamentals would suggest.

Image: AI

If oil prices stay around $100/barrel, the impact will be 2% of GDP...this will play out via higher deficits & lower growth

The full-year dollar shortage in the last fiscal should have been in the range of $25bn. But RBI had to intervene by over $80bn just in the last six months of the year. This means, exporters have slowed hedging (reducing supply of dollars), and importers and foreign investors are hedging much more than they used to (raising demand for dollars).

ENERGY WARS

Increase in import duties on gold and silver is designed to reduce 'non-essential' imports, but they may not suffice. Higher retail prices of petrol and diesel can help more, by reducing demand and the import burden.

Will there be physical shortages of oil and related products? Other than natural gas (a relatively small part of India's energy supply) and LPG (volumes down 16-17% vs last year in March and April), for now, significant shortages appear unlikely, in our view.

India has a refining surplus, and given that refining margins are up sharply too – as the Strait's blockade has affected not just crude oil supply but also refining capacity – Indian refiners are able to source crude, and sell the product locally. In fertilisers, farmers most impacted will be from countries that do not subsidise (like US, given that the urea-to-corn price ratio is at a record high) or cannot subsidise (like Sri Lanka or Pakistan).

The remarkable stability in oil prices in April was likely due to China drawing on 3.5mn barrels per day of inventory, more than 3% of global demand, and 10% of its strategic reserves. This kept global markets stable, and the warring sides felt no pressure to compromise for an agreement.

However, even strategic inventories cannot last forever. Stocks of aviation fuel (ATF) at the aviation hub in Europe, for example, are down by a third in two months, and major European airlines have had to cut flights in May to optimise. Global airline seat-kms were down 2.5% year-on-year in April, versus a pre-war growth of 5%. This may fall further, just when the northern holiday season starts.

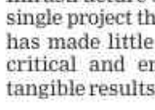
Essentially, GOI's approach may need to change to adapt to a longer period of elevated energy prices. The economy should be allowed to adjust to new energy market realities.

The writer is chief economist, Axis Bank

Quad, Where Art Thou?

With US now increasingly disinterested in the quadrilateral grouping, does it serve India's interests to hang on? As Trump & Xi summit today, New Delhi must take a hard call

Vijay Gokhale



As Trump begins his highly anticipated summit with Xi today, there's one aspect of the US-China strategic calculus that comes into sharp focus. The US-India-Japan-Australia quadrilateral dialogue or Quad is, metaphorically speaking, dead in the water. It's still afloat, but just barely. India is still waiting to host the leaders-level summit due in 2025.

Although Quad – not explicitly directed at China – declares itself a partnership, united in the conviction that peace and stability in the maritime domain underpin peace and security in the region, the recent American military action in the Gulf has neither underpinned peace and security in partnership with other Quad members, nor demonstrated sensitivity to its partner, India's, interests so close to its shores.

US, the principal architect of Quad's second edition, appears to be losing interest. Since the last ministerial meeting in July 2025, there has been no talk of a summit. Quad is barely referenced in Trump's National Security Strategy. Neither Pentagon's 2026 National Defence Strategy, nor secretary of war's statement to US Congress on April 29, makes any references to Quad. As India readies to host the next foreign ministers meeting, it's pertinent to question whether US is scaling back, or entirely scuttling, Quad.

Ironically, in 2017, Quad 2.0 was resuscitated by Trump. The four summits (2021-24) pronounced wide-ranging initiatives in health security, critical and emerging technologies, quality infra, and maritime domain awareness among others. Five years later, there's general agreement that Quad was generous on promises, but meagre on action.

The health security initiative has delivered no joint outcomes on safe and effective vaccines; the Quality Infrastructure Coordination Group has not executed a single project thus far; the Clean Hydrogen partnership has made little progress; and, the working group on critical and emerging technologies has shown no tangible results in joint R&D.

Aside from progress in the important area of maritime domain awareness, Quad has been more a set of talking heads than working hands.

It was apparent from the beginning that India and US were never entirely on the same page. For India, Quad's geographical footprint spanned two oceans, from Japan till the east African shores, whereas US saw it within a more limited geography that did not extend to regions west of India. For Washington, Quad was part of the broader geopolitical containment of China, whereas for New Delhi it was more about rebalancing.

India's Indo-Pacific vision, outlined by Modi in Singapore in 2018, clearly enunciated that all nations in this geography had a stake, and none could be excluded.

Image: AI

Besides, US, Japan and Australia are treaty allies, but India has no formal security treaties with any. Despite these differences, both govts felt that shared interests made Quad a value proposition worth advancing.

There were rumblings during the Biden administration, questioning India's resolve to move towards a more robust response to China's growing influence in western Pacific. But it took the long-term view, because India's inclusion added gravitas and diversity to what is otherwise a Western alliance.

Since China's salience in America's future security is regularly mentioned by secretaries Rubio and Hegseth, what has changed in American policy? For one, their priorities have shifted – America is putting itself and its interests first. Official references to Indo-Pacific now focus on western Pacific, almost to the exclusion of Indian Ocean Region.

For another, deterring China remains a key priority, but, in Hegseth's words it must be achieved 'through strength, not confrontation', and in a manner that allows all, including China, to enjoy a "decent peace in an Indo-Pacific where trade flows openly and fairly…where we can all prosper, and all interests are respected". These policy shifts suggest a diminution in the salience of Quad.

India, it appears, does not geopolitically fit into the Trump administration's evolving Indo-Pacific strategy. It has, likely, concluded that New Delhi is reluctant, and also lacks capacity to bear greater responsibility for security in western Pacific. It's ready alternatives.

Towards the end of the Biden administration, a new maritime-focused four-nation plurilateral (Squad), in which India was substituted by Philippines, was taking shape. Most recently, this has been given a fillip with the announcement that US will build a 'forward deployed industrial base' there under the Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement.

More significantly, US and Indonesia just signed a Major Defence Cooperation Partnership last month. This means Indonesia's role will, likely, be enhanced in US plans to strengthen deterrence and promote security in the region.

So far as the northern Indian Ocean is concerned, the Trump administration is possibly betting on giving Pakistan a bigger role in helping US to maintain peace and security in the post-conflict West Asian region.

It's unlikely that Quad will be allowed to die because it still has, for Americans, a symbolic significance. The Indian strategic community, however, needs to ask the hard question of whether the reputational and other costs of adhering to such an arrangement, merely out of hope rather than because of substantive outcomes, are a price worth paying.

Perhaps, at the ministerial meeting in Delhi, the Americans might be asked to explain how continuing with Quad helps India's development and security, rather than answering Washington's doubts about India's intentions. A re-assessment of Quad is now overdue.

The writer is a former foreign secretary

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacred*space*

That's life, that's what all the people say
You're ridin' high in April, shot down in May
But I know I'm gonna change that tune
When I'm back on top, back on top in June.

Frank Sinatra

Life & Death: Two Milestones Of A Journey

Aacharya Pragyasagar

Human life is a remarkable journey, one that begins with arrival and continues through many transitions. We celebrate birth with joy, yet the mere mention of death fills us with fear, grief, and uncertainty. This contrast arises not from truth, but from our limited understanding. If life is an art, then death is an integral part of its completion. It is, therefore, not enough to learn how to live; we must also learn to face death with awareness.

Our greatest illusion lies in believing that death is an end. Nature, in its silent wisdom, teaches us otherwise. The setting sun does not disappear; it rises elsewhere. A falling leaf does not perish; it becomes part of the soil, nurturing new life. In the same way, death is not annihilation but transformation, a change of state, form, and journey. It is neither inauspicious nor tragic; it is a natural and inevitable truth. Yet, we have turned it into a symbol of fear because we do not understand it. What remains unknown often becomes the source of fear.

This brings us to a deeper question: why do we celebrate birth but mourn death? When a child is born, we rejoice at the arrival of a new life. When someone departs, we grieve as though everything has ended. But a deeper reflection reveals that both birth and death are stages within the continuous cycle of existence shaped by karma. Birth marks the continuation of this journey, and death is not an end, but a transition within it. True liberation lies not in death itself, but in freedom from the cycle of birth and death; it is in moksh.

THE SPEAKING TREE

The fear of death is the fear of the unknown that lies beyond. We strive to understand life yet hesitate to reflect upon death. As a result, death appears as darkness. But understanding dissolves fear. Even science acknowledges that energy is never destroyed, only transformed. While the Atman is not the same as physical energy, this principle offers a helpful analogy, suggesting continuity rather than absolute cessation. The journey of the Atman is continuous; death is a milestone, not the destination.

To understand death is to understand the art of dying. Dying is a conscious process and the art of dying means to depart with awareness, without fear, without regret, and with minimal attachment. Jain wisdom places great importance on the final state of consciousness, as it shapes the soul's onward journey. Only one who has lived with awareness can face death with equanimity.

The nature of one's departure is influenced by the inner state cultivated during life. A life filled with restlessness, malice, and imbalance often culminates in agitation. But a life rooted in compassion, balance, and awareness can culminate in a calm and composed departure.

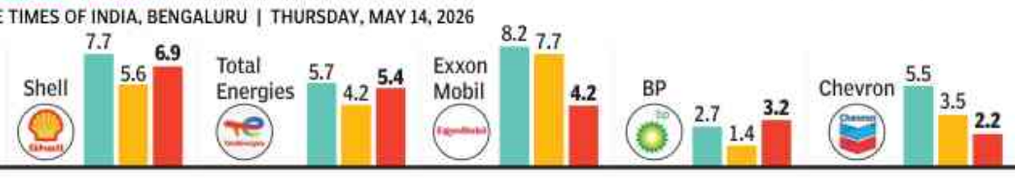
Much of the sorrow associated with death arises not for the one who departs, but for those who remain. The root cause is attachment. We often mistake possession for love, binding relationships in ownership. When separation occurs, pain follows. But true love liberates; it does not bind. Jain thought, emphasises *samata*, equanimity. It teaches us neither to be excessively elated at birth nor excessively grief-stricken at death. To live in equanimity is to see both life and death as two milestones of the same journey.

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

The West Asia crisis has had a mixed impact on the world's largest oil companies earnings. Both Shell and TotalEnergies reported solid growth compared to Q1 2025, with earnings up by nearly 24% & 29%, respectively. BP posted a sharp rebound of 132% after a relatively weak year. In contrast, US giants saw a steep drop in earnings

Adjusted earnings of selected integrated oil majors in Q1, by year (in $bn)



The divergence in earnings reflects structural differences in how these companies generate income. While US majors faced margin pressure despite higher oil prices, European firms benefited from trading operations and LNG portfolios, which tend to profit from market dislocations and volatility triggered by geopolitical shocks

Source: Company quarterly filings, Statista

SoftBank's India portfolio lost over $600mn in March quarter

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Bengaluru: SoftBank Group's listed India portfolio lost more than $600 million in value during the March quarter, weighed down by declines in Swiggy, Ola Electric, Meesho, FirstCry and Delhivery. Gains in Lenskart partly offset the decline, according to the Japanese investor's latest earnings disclosures. Overall, the Vision Fund reported losses of about $4.2 billion from its listed investments during the quarter.

Among SoftBank's listed India bets, only Lenskart delivered gains during the period, contributing roughly $100 million in upside. The rest of the portfolio recorded declines in market value, resulting in paper losses for the investor.

The disclosures came alongside a sharp rise in SoftBank's quarterly profit, driven largely by gains linked to its exposure to OpenAI. The company reported quarterly net profit of about $12 billion, while the Vision Fund posted investment gains exceeding $19 billion.

SoftBank has invested more than $15 billion in India over the past decade. As more portfolio companies list on stock exchanges, the value of its India holdings has become increasingly tied to public market performance. In recent quarters, however, the Japanese investor has slowed the pace of fresh investments in India, focusing instead on selective bets and follow-on funding in existing portfolio firms. One of its recent investments includes AI coding startup Emergent.

Airtel Q4 net profit plunges 33.5% on one-time provision

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel posted a 33.5% decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 7,325 crore for the March 2026 quarter, mainly due to one-time provisions related to statutory and tax liabilities. The company's annual revenue crossed Rs 2 lakh crore for the first time, driven by 3.2% customer growth to 66.5 crore, coupled with an increase in average revenue per user (ARPU) in India. Airtel had posted a profit after tax of Rs 12,476 crore in the March 2025 quarter due to a one-time gain in the period. Meanwhile, the company's founder Sunil Bharti Mittal has been reappointed as chairman of the board for five years till Sept 30, 2031. AGENCIES

Exaforce gets $125mn for business expansion

Bengaluru: Cybersecurity startup Exaforce has raised $125 million in one of the largest funding rounds in the emerging AI-SOC (security operations centre) segment. The round saw participation from HarbourVest Partners, Peak XV Partners, Mayfield, Khosla Ventures, Seligman Ventures and AICONIC. The funding comes about a year after Exaforce raised $75 million, taking its total funding to $200 million. TNN

Wipro Consumer Care invests in Moi Soi

Bengaluru: Wipro Consumer Care & Lighting has invested in Moi Soi, a premium Pan-Asian foods and beverages brand owned by Ceres Foods. The investment marks the first deployment from Wipro Consumer Care Ventures' second fund. TNN

Rupee at record low of 95.8/$, worst performer in Asia this yr

External Pressures Outweigh Effects Of Higher Duties To Curb CAD

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The rupee weakened to a record low of 95.8 against the US dollar on Wednesday, slipping 6 paise from its previous close of 95.74, as persistent external pressures and firm global cues kept sentiment subdued.

The currency gained during the session, appreciating to 95.51 levels after govt measures to curb the current account deficit through higher duties on gold and silver imports, but the gains proved short-lived amid continued demand for dollars from importers and overseas debt repayments.

"Higher duties may also create incentives for illegal imports, as was observed earlier when the duty stood at 15% before being reduced to curb smuggling. In the short run, though, this measure can help reduce the import bill and ease pressure on the widening current account deficit (CAD). Since gold accounts for nearly 9-10% of India's total import bill, the hike could provide some protection to foreign exchange reserves," said Haresh V of Geojit Investments.

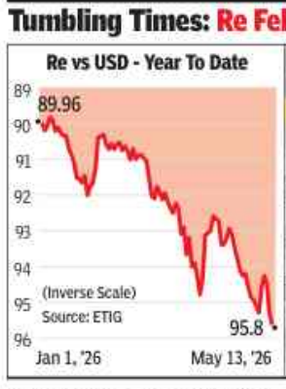
The rupee has depreciated over 6% in 2026, making it the worst-performing currency in Asia, and has fallen more than 5% since the onset of the West Asia conflict.

"Markets are closely watching expected govt measures aimed at curbing imports and supporting the rupee amid pressure from elevated crude prices and rising import bills. Despite intermittent recovery attempts, sentiment remains cautious as the rupee continues to trade under pressure near lifetime weak zones. Near-term rupee range is seen between 95.45-96.00," said Jateen Trivedi, research analyst at LKP Securities.

Elevated crude prices due to the West Asia conflict have strained the current account and led to downward revisions in growth forecasts, while inflation projections have moved higher, adding to concerns over macroeconomic stability. Frequent central bank intervention and regulatory measures have helped contain sharper depreciation, though analysts said sustained recovery would depend on a sharp fall in oil prices and a revival in foreign capital inflows.

The currency is expected to weaken further, with projections nearing 97 per US dollar by year-end. Major global currencies traded in narrow ranges with limited volatility, even as elevated oil prices and geopolitical tensions continued to pose challenges for central banks globally.

Tumbling Times: Re Fell 5% Since War Began



Other Currencies	YTD Change vs $ (%)
Indian Rupee	-6.5
Indonesian Rupiah	-4.6
Philippine Peso	-4
South Korean Won	-3
Thai Baht	-2.6
Japanese Yen	-0.7
Hong Kong Dollar	-0.6
Taiwan Dollar	-0.3
Singapore Dollar	1
Chinese Yuan	2.9
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3

Short-term pain in store for jewellers

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Mumbai: Higher import duty on gold is likely to weigh on discretionary purchases and keep consumers with smaller budgets away from the market for a while as an increase in tariffs will translate into a hike in retail prices, straining middle-class shoppers, industry executives said. They project a dip in sales volumes in the near-term.

However, given that gold jewellery is deeply rooted in Indian culture and is synonymous with weddings and festivities in many parts of the country, companies are hopeful that a broader slump in demand will be averted and essential consumption of the yellow metal will continue.

To get more consumers to the stores though, firms are planning to heavily push exchange programmes, enabling people to swap old gold for new. Most of India's local gold consumption is met through imports which is why a rise in tariffs tends to have a bearing on prices—the country's gold imports increased to $72 billion in FY26 from $58 billion in FY25.

RING IN THE OLD

- Price-sensitive, entry level consumers and first-time buyers to get hit
- Exchange-led purchases to become dominant going ahead until prices stabilise
- Jewellers pushing sales of lower caratage gold which requires lower quantity of pure gold

"An increase in import duty on gold typically has a direct impact on retail prices, which can influence short-term consumer sentiment, especially for price-sensitive buyers. In the immediate phase, some customers may choose to postpone discretionary purchases or wait for price stability before making decisions. It can lead to a volume degrowth of 10-15%," said Suvankar Sen, MD & CEO at Senco Gold.

Customers, particularly first-time buyers will take a moment to recalibrate, said MP Ahammad, chairman at Malabar Group, adding that exchange of old gold for new jewellery which already makes for a meaningful share of transactions at organised retailers will become the dominant mode of purchase going ahead.

"Jewellers are likely to pass on the hike in import duty to consumers, pushing up prices of gold ornaments. However, India's cultural and emotional affinity to gold, especially during weddings and festive seasons, continues to support long-term demand. Also, customers are increasingly viewing gold not only as an ornament but also as a trusted investment vehicle," said Dr Joy Alukkas, chairman & MD at Joyalukkas.

Kalyan Jewellers has launched a Gold4India initiative as part of which it is pushing consumers to exchange old, unused, broken or outdated jewellery and also buy more of 18K jewellery which requires a lower quantity of pure gold. Separately, the The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) has asked its members to promote sales of lower caratage jewellery and discourage investments in gold bars and coins which accounts for 20-30% of total imports.

Tata Trust petitioner retreats, but keeps his options open

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Mumbai: A legal challenge to the board of Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) crumbled in the Bombay high court on Wednesday after judges questioned whether the petitioner had any standing to litigate the case at all.

Suresh Tulsiram Patilkhede, a 61-year-old Thane resident, had sought the reconstitution of the SRTT board, arguing its existing structure breached the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act as amended in Sept 2025. Representing SRTT, senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Janak Dwarkadas countered that Patilkhede was neither a beneficiary nor a trustee of SRTT, and that the Maharashtra govt had clarified the amendment applies prospectively, not retrospectively. Judges observed that a complaint linked to the dispute had already been filed before the charity commissioner, but not by Patilkhede himself. His petition also failed to disclose on whose behalf that complaint was filed. The complainant before the commissioner was Katyayani Agrawal, an advocate; Patilkhede, her client, was the petitioner before the high court.

The court noted that Patilkhede "admits it's a mistake." It also noted that the petition was filed citing urgency over SRTT's May 16 board meeting, yet no notice had been served on relevant parties. Following the court's observations, Patilkhede's counsel, former Madras high court chief justice T Raja sought permission to withdraw the petition. The court obliged. Patilkhede retains the option of filing a complaint with the commissioner and returning to the court with a new petition. The SRTT board meeting, originally scheduled for May 8, has been pushed back to May 16.

AI to cut additional 145 weekly int'l flights

New Delhi: International connectivity to and from India will see a sharp drop this summer with Air India set to suspend an additional about 145 weekly flights between this June and Aug. While these new cuts, which come on top of almost 100 daily flights being suspended earlier this summer, have been made to reduce costs amid spiralling operating expenditures and mounting losses, for passengers it will mean even higher fares on the truncated supply this summer as the big Gulf carriers are also operating a reduced capacity. Air India says it will try to make alternate arrangements for travel for affected passengers who had booked on flights that are now going to be cancelled, failing which a refund will be given. TNN

PE investments decline 33% to $19.6bn in 2025

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Mumbai: High valuations sought by Indian companies alongside geopolitical turmoil have weighed on the appetite of private equity (PE) investors, who have moved away from big buyout deals, driving down the amount of capital invested in the market and average deal value in 2025, Bain & Company said in a report.

In all, PE investors deployed $19.6 billion in India last year, down by about 33% year-on-year. The expanding scope of AI and its impact on traditionally PE-backed sectors such as IT and tech services also nudged investors to go slow on capital allocation.

"The number of companies that are getting evaluated is also pretty muted. Diligence has been slower than what was seen historically," Prabhav Kashyap, partner at Bain & Company told **TOI**, adding that deal volumes are quite likely to take a beating this year.

> The number of companies that are getting evaluated is also pretty muted. Diligence has been slower than what was seen historically
>
> PRABHAV KASHYAP | PARTNER, BAIN & COMPANY

Average deal value declined by about 25% y-o-y as sub-$100 million transactions made for nearly 70% of PE deal volumes last year. "Large control transactions slowed down despite available capital, given persistent valuation gaps in scaled assets and tighter leverage, creating constraints on large buyouts," analysts at the firm said. The value of buyout deals slipped by half to $6.5 billion in 2025, said Kashyap. Amid global macro-volatility, investors will stick to domestic sectors such as retail, financial services and manufacturing, and AI-focused capital will cover spaces such as data centres and semiconductors.

Move aimed at conserving forex reserves, say officials

▶ Continued from page 1

In contrast, imports of silver, which also has industrial use, soared 2.5 times to over $12 billion while the quantity shipped jumped 42% to 7,335 tonnes, according to commerce department data. While in the past too govts have sought to reduce demand for gold, they have made limited headway. Often higher tariffs have resulted in a spike in shipments through illegal channels. Govt officials described it as a move to prioritise essential imports, such as energy, fertilisers, capital goods, defence items and critical technologies, over products which were largely for consumption and investment, and conserve foreign exchange reserves amid heightened global uncertainty. While the duty hikes were expected to support a constantly weakening rupee, it did not do so at least on Wednesday as the Indian currency hit a fresh low against the US dollar.

Gold imports in India are driven by the jewellery industry demand. Such imports involve a substantial outflow of foreign exchange. "During periods of external stress, measured moderation of discretionary imports may contribute significantly to overall macro-economic stability and prudent external-sector management," an official said.

Silicon Road Ventures launches ₹150cr fund

Bengaluru: US-based venture capital firm Silicon Road Ventures has partnered with veteran banker Ajay Mahajan to launch a Rs 150 crore alternative investment fund (AIF) focused on startups building agentic AI solutions. The Sebi-registered Category-II AIF will back early-stage startups across ecommerce, supply chain and logistics, fintech, consumer insights and retail operations, Mahajan told **TOI**. TNN

Price hike imminent if oil rates stay high: RBI

Governor Malhotra Says Flexible Inflation Targeting May Not Be Enough Amid Crisis

India may need to increase retail fuel prices if the conflict in West Asia drags on, Reserve Bank of India governor Sanjay Malhotra said.

His remarks came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged voluntary austerity, including cutting down on petrol and diesel use and putting off gold purchases, to preserve foreign exchange reserves. The duty on gold was more than doubled and additional measures to curb demand for imported goods are likely in the coming days.

"If this is to continue for longer period of time, it is just a matter of time before the govt will pass on some of the price increases," Malhotra said at a conference hosted by the Swiss National Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Switzerland on Tuesday. Excise duties had been cut while state-run fuel retailers were absorbing the increase in crude prices as the conflict continues, he added.

India's inflation edged up to 3.5% in April from 3.4% in March, coming in lower than expected as the govt absorbed higher crude costs. However, risks remain as rising energy prices from the conflict in the Persian Gulf weigh on the outlook.

Inflation Expected To Rise

Supply-chain disruptions in the region are beginning to hit India. "We have this framework of flexible inflation targeting, but in such times it's not sufficient," he said, adding that fiscal coordination becomes critical "if the supply shock is as big as it is.

The RBI has forecast growth of 6.9% this financial year, with inflation averaging 4.6%. However, economists expect growth to slow further and inflation to rise due to the conflict. The RBI left its key policy repurchase rate unchanged at 5.25% in April.

"We are being more and more data dependent. We are taking it more meeting by meeting," said the RBI governor. The RBI is being flexible in its approach and is ready to look through the shock if it's transitory, "but if it is entrenched, we need to take action," Malhotra said. The central bank's next monetary policy meeting is scheduled for June 5. BLOOMBERG

'GOVT HAS BEEN PRUDENT'

"Govt may need to hike fuel prices if the conflict in West Asia drags on. Govt has followed fiscally prudent policies so it is only a matter of time before higher oil prices are passed on more fully. It's important for fiscal and monetary policy to coordinate at this time

"At its April monetary policy review, RBI decided to wait and watch. It was early days then. Monetary policy will need to remain nimble and flexible. Central banks need to be cautious, follow a policy of gradualism in the face of heightened uncertainty

—Sanjay Malhotra
RBI GOVERNOR

RBI may pay record dividend to govt

New Delhi: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to pay the highest-ever dividend to govt, providing the Centre with a fiscal cushion to address challenges arising from the ongoing West Asia crisis, people in the know said. Last year RBI made a record dividend payout of Rs 2.7 lakh crore to the central govt for 2024-25, 27% higher than Rs 2.1 lakh crore transferred in the previous year. RBI is likely to decide about dividend quantum in its board meeting expected to be held during this month. The transferable surplus for any financial year is arrived at on the basis of the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF) as approved by the central board of RBI. AGENCIES

Uber to set up first India data centre with Adani Group

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Bengaluru: Ride-hailing platform Uber is setting up its first data centre in India in partnership with the Adani Group, its CEO **Dara Khosrowshahi** said on Wednesday. This marks a significant expansion of the company's infrastructure footprint in one of its fastest-growing markets. "As India fast emerges as a leading innovation hub for Uber, we are setting up our first data center in the country with the Adani Group to test and deploy our tech," Khosrowshahi said in a post on X after meeting Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani in Ahmedabad.

The Iranian-origin CEO said the investment would help the company "build at scale, from India, for the world" and added that the facility would be ready later this year.

The announcement comes as global technology companies increasingly deepen their India infrastructure presence amid rising demand for cloud, AI and data processing capacity. It also adds to the Adani Group's growing ambitions in digital infrastructure, including data centres and connectivity.

Uber already operates large technology and engineering teams in India, with Bengaluru serving as one of its biggest global tech hubs outside the United States. The company has been expanding its India offerings across mobility, logistics and electric mobility while also using the country as a key engineering and product development base.

Uber's announcement comes amid a surge in India data-centre investments driven by growing demand for AI, cloud and high-performance computing infrastructure. For the Adani Group, the partnership adds to its broader ambitions around AI infrastructure and data centres. At the India AI Impact Summit in February, the conglomerate announced plans to invest $100 billion towards renewable-energy-powered, hyperscale AI-ready data centres by 2035, while also outlining ambitions around server manufacturing, sovereign cloud platforms and domestic AI infrastructure supply chains.

> **Facility reflects growing demand for AI-ready infras as global cos deepen tech investments across India**

The group had then said it was building a five-gigawatt data centre platform through AdaniConnex and highlighted partnerships with Google for a gigawatt-scale AI data centre campus in Visakhapatnam, alongside projects with other global technology companies.

Uber's proposed India data centre places it within a wider wave of infrastructure build-outs rather than as an isolated move. India's data centre market has already drawn a wide set of operators, including NTT Global Data Centers, STT GDC India, CtrlS, Sify Technologies, Nxtra by Airtel, Yotta and Equinix. Reliance-backed Digital Connexion, a joint venture with Brookfield Infrastructure and Digital Realty, is also building capacity in the country. CBRE has said India's data centre capacity crossed about 1.5 GW in 2025, while JLL pegged inventory at 1,123 MW of IT load capacity as of the first half of 2025.

The sector is now seeing demand from cloud providers, AI companies, internet platforms, enterprises and large domestic conglomerates. CBRE said India has attracted nearly $94 billion in data centre investment commitments since 2019, with Telangana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu among the top destinations. It has projected about 500 MW of new supply in 2026, implying a 30% capacity expansion. The rush is being driven by AI workloads, data localisation, cloud adoption and the need for low-latency infrastructure closer to users.

Rolls-Royce, HAL expand Hosur aerospace manufacturing facility

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: International Aerospace Manufacturing (IAMPL), the 50:50 joint venture between Rolls-Royce and Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL), inaugurated its expanded manufacturing facility in Hosur in Tamil Nadu, boosting advanced aerospace manufacturing capabilities in India.

Spread across 12 acres, the expanded facility will increase IAMPL's capacity to manufacture compressor and turbine components, while adding capabilities for complex rotating parts for future indigenous and global aerospace programmes. Sashi Mukundan, executive vice-president, Rolls-Royce India, said, "We intend to establish India as a strategic 'home market' and remain focused on developing future-ready capabilities built on innovation, partnership and engineering excellence. IAMPL is already a benchmark facility within our global manufacturing ecosystem, and it will play a significant role as we move towards growing our sourcing 10-fold from India, in line with future programmes and partnerships."

> **Expanded Hosur unit will make advanced jet-engine parts for civil and defence aerospace programmes**

Ravi K, chairman and MD of HAL, said, "As part of our shared vision to advance India's aerospace and defence industry, IAMPL is playing a key role in building advanced, future-ready industrial capabilities within the country. We are confident that these manufacturing capabilities will significantly contribute to India's vision of indigenous technology development while further enhancing the nation's standing in the global aerospace and defence value chain."

IAMPL has been manufacturing high-precision machined and special-processed jet-engine parts since 2012.

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

I CANNOT AFFORD TO WASTE MY TIME MAKING MONEY — LOUIS AGASSIZ

MAN ACCUSED OF STEALING UNRELEASED BEYONCE MUSIC FROM CAR PLEADS GUILTY, GETS 2-YEAR JAIL

'LORD OF THE RINGS' FILMMAKER PETER JACKSON GETS HONORARY PALME D'OR DURING OPENING CEREMONY OF CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

Trump says no need for China's help on Iran

'We'll Win It One Way Or The Other, Peacefully Or Otherwise'

Washington/Dubai: US President Donald Trump has said he does not expect to need China's help to end the war in Iran and ease Tehran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz, in remarks made before he arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for a summit with President Xi Jinping.

The war is expected to feature in talks between Trump and Xi over the next two days, but Trump downplayed Beijing's potential role in ending the conflict, which has choked off traffic through a key waterway that typically carries about one-fifth of the world's oil supply. "I don't think we need any help with Iran. We'll win it one way or the other, peacefully or otherwise," he told reporters in Washington before departing for China. Iran has appeared to firm up its control over the Strait of Hormuz in recent days, cutting deals with Iraq and Pakistan to ship oil and liquefied natural gas from the region, according to sources with knowledge of the matter.

Getty Images

CHINA ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET: President Trump is greeted by Chinese youth, a military honour guard and military band as he departs Air Force One at Beijing Capital International Airport on Wednesday. Trump was welcomed by Chinese veep Han Zheng at the airport, a rare honour that broke with usual diplomatic protocol. Officials say most of the top leaders visiting China, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, a close ally of Xi, were received by state councillors, a high-ranking post of the ruling Communist Party of China

China says 'four red-lines in relations must not be challenged'

Washington: The Chinese embassy in the US on Wednesday reiterated its position on key sensitive issues in China-US relations, stating that certain issues constitute "four red lines" that must not be challenged during US President Donald Trump's visit to China from May 13 to 15. In a post on X, the embassy said, "The four red lines in China-US relations must not be challenged." In an image along the post, it listed them as 'The Taiwan Question', 'Democracy and Human Rights', 'Paths and Political Systems' and 'China's Development Right.'

In another post on X, the embassy said, "China and the US should explore the building of a strategic, constructive, and stable China-US relationship."

Reinforcing its broader diplomatic position, in another post on X, it further added, "Mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation remain the right way for China and the US to get along." ANI

Iranian officials have signalled they see that control as a long-term strategic goal. An army spokesperson said supervision of the waterway could generate revenue amounting to twice Iran's oil income, while strengthening its foreign policy leverage. "After this war ends, there will be no place for retreat," the spokesperson said.

The Trump administration said Tuesday that senior US and Chinese officials had agreed last month that no country should be able to charge tolls on traffic through the region, in an effort to project consensus on the issue ahead of the summit. China, a major buyer of Iranian oil that maintains close ties with Tehran, did not dispute that account. On Wednesday, a Chinese supertanker carrying 2 million barrels of Iraqi crude sailed through the Strait of Hormuz, ship-tracking data showed, marking the third known passage by a Chinese oil tanker through the channel since the US and Israel launched strikes on Iran on Feb 28.

As the costs of the conflict mount, Trump said Americans' financial struggles were not a factor in his decision-making on the war. Data released on Tuesday showed that US consumer inflation accelerated in April, with the annual rate posting its largest gain in three years as food, rent and airfares rose. Asked to what extent the economic strain on Americans was motivating him to strike a deal, Trump replied: "Not even a little bit." "I don't think about Americans' financial situation ...," Trump said before leaving for China. "I think about one thing: We cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon." REUTERS

Saudi launched covert attacks on Iran as war widened: Report

Riyadh/Dubai: Saudi Arabia launched numerous, unpublicised strikes on Iran in retaliation for attacks carried out in the kingdom during the West Asia war, two Western officials briefed on the matter and two Iranian officials said.

The Saudi attacks, not previously reported, mark the first time that the kingdom is known to have directly carried out military action on Iranian soil and show it is becoming much bolder in defending itself against its main regional rival. The attacks, launched by the Saudi Air Force, were assessed to have been carried out in late March, the two Western officials said. One said only that they were "tit-for-tat strikes in retaliation for when Saudi (Arabia) was hit."

The UAE also carried out strikes on Iran, Wall Street Journal reported on Monday.

Officials said Saudi Arabia made Iran aware of the strikes and this was followed by intensive diplomatic engagement and Saudi threats to retaliate further, which led to an understanding between the two countries to de-escalate. REUTERS

UK health secy to quit and challenge Starmer for leadership: Report

London: Keir Starmer was facing his biggest challenge yet on Wednesday when his health minister was reportedly readying his resignation to try to trigger a contest to replace a British prime minister who had sought some respite to set out his govt's agenda.

As Starmer and his ministers stood in silence to hear King Charles read out that agenda, the ceremony was overshadowed by what could be the most dangerous threat to the PM since lawmakers began urging him to resign over one of Labour's worst defeats in last week's elections. The report in Times newspaper that health minister Wes Streeting was preparing to resign as early as Thursday to mount a leadership challenge could mean the Starmer govt's agenda, outlined by Charles, might never be implemented.

Govt borrowing costs jumped on the report, though they later eased back, moving away from multi-decade highs hit Tuesday amid the ongoing political turmoil. Starmer's spokesperson said the PM had full confidence in his health minister but declined to comment on an earlier meeting between the two men.

The health minister's team said he would also not comment on that meeting, which took place at Starmer's Downing Street office, to ensure he did not distract from the King's Speech. Streeting later took to X to promote his achievements in tackling waiting times for Britain's state-run health service. "Lots done, lots to do," he wrote, failing to address the report.

AFP/File

IN BETTER TIMES: Health secy Wes Streeting with PM Starmer

Streeting would need the support of 81 Labour lawmakers to launch a leadership bid. That could encourage other rivals to enter the race, although two potential challengers, Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham and former deputy PM Angela Rayner, have to overcome hurdles before they would be able to run.

Starmer had hoped to shore up his waning authority by unveiling his govt's agenda. But it offered little new to the more than 90 Labour lawmakers who have called on him to set a timetable for his departure. In the preface to the King's Speech, Starmer said his govt had to break with a tradition of looking to the "status quo" for answers, promising "an urgent, activist Labour govt".

However, the King's Speech was mostly the formalisation of previously announced policies, including a bid to spur anaemic growth by building closer ties with EU. REUTERS

Trump team has more loyalists than China experts

▶Continued from P1

To overcome the perceived loss of global US prestige, President Donald Trump is travelling with an unusually CEO-heavy delegation featuring technology and industrial titans including Elon Musk, Jensen Huang, and Tim Cook — a clear signal that despite the rhetoric of strategic competition, the White House wants to do business.

Huang was added mid-trip during a refuelling stop in Alaska — after the media noted his absence — as Trump assembled executives seeking better access to the Chinese market. The official delegation is stacked less with China scholars than with loyalists and deal-makers: treasury secretary Scott Bessent, defence secretary Pete Hegseth and trade representative Jamieson Greer.

When critics pointed to the relative absence of seasoned China experts from the core entourage, one Trump aide blew a gasket. "You have no idea what you're talking about, you slope-brained, mouth-breathing moron. Stop calling yourself an expert in anything, aside from sucking," White House communications director Steven Cheung fumed at the critic, a former Obama administration official, underscoring sensitivities within a Trump White House often accused of prioritising loyalty over institutional knowledge. The family optics has also raised eyebrows. Accompanying Trump are son Eric and daughter-in-law Lara Trump, but notably absent is First Lady Melania Trump, with observers seeing the omission as further evidence that the trip, beneath the pageantry, is fundamentally commercial — less statecraft than a corporate roadshow.

What Washington hopes to secure is relatively straightforward: increased Chinese purchases of American goods, renewed aircraft orders, agricultural imports, and perhaps large-scale Chinese investment in the US at a time Trump needs economic wins heading into politically perilous midterms. China, meanwhile, is expected to seek easing of export restrictions on advanced semiconductors, reduced tariff pressure, and possibly softer American positions on Taiwan.

Reuters

Trump is greeted with flowers after his arrival in Beijing

That last issue looms ominously over the visit. Taiwanese officials and American hawks alike fear Trump's instinctive preference for headline-grabbing deals could tempt him into offering rhetorical concessions to Beijing on Taiwan in exchange for economic gains or Chinese cooperation over Iran and the Strait of Hormuz.

Some editorialists believe Xi will press Trump to edge closer to explicitly recognising Beijing's claim over Taiwan rather than merely acknowledging it under longstanding US policy. Whether Trump arrives with strength or weakness remains hotly debated in Washington. Trump-friendly outlets such as Fox News have portrayed him as entering Beijing with the "upper hand", citing China's economic slowdown and Trump's reputation for unpredictability. But critics argue the opposite: that Trump has painted himself into a corner after an Israel-linked confrontation with Iran spiralled into a costly geopolitical and economic mess, and he needs a Chinese bail-out.

Even more damaging, analysts say, was Beijing's retaliatory use of rare-earth mineral controls after Trump's tariff escalation last year. Despite Trump's bluster, China's ability to choke supply chains critical to American automotive, defence and technology industries appears to have dramatically narrowed Washington's room for manoeuver.

Some commentators are now openly asking whether the Hormuz crisis could become Washington's "Suez moment" — a historic parallel to the 1956 debacle that forced Britain to confront the limits of its imperial power. In that reading, Trump's Beijing pilgrimage becomes more than a trade mission; it becomes a tacit acknowledgement that the US now needs Chinese cooperation to stabilise the global order it once dominated alone.

For all Trump's bravado, critics say he appears to be "pawing the ground" for a deal — and rather desperately at that. The perception was reinforced by a series of extraordinary remarks at home before his departure. Asked whether economic anxiety among Americans is influencing his thinking on Iran negotiations, Trump replied: "I don't think about American financial situation — I don't think about anybody. I think about one thing: We cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon." He also raged at a reporter who asked about the rising cost of the White House ballroom, calling her a "dumb person". As the summit unfolds beneath layers of Communist choreography and capitalist bargaining, Americans are left hoping their President, a self-proclaimed "stable genius", will be a little more circumspect in Beijing.

Bibi held secret talks with Emirati prez during war

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the UAE and met with the Emirati president during the war with Iran, a statement from the Prime Minister's office said on Wednesday.

According to the statement, the meeting resulted in an "historic breakthrough" in relations between Israel and the UAE. The statement appeared to be the first confirmation of a meeting between Netanyahu and the Emirati president. A source familiar with the meeting said Netanyahu and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed (MBZ) met in Al-Ain, an oasis city by the Oman border, on March 26 and that their meeting lasted several hours.

The UAE is one of just a few Arab states with diplomatic relations with Israel, which were made official during the 2020 Abraham Accords, a signature foreign policy achievement of US President Trump and Netanyahu. REUTERS

Kash denies drinking allegations in Senate

Washington: FBI director Kash Patel angrily lashed out at a Democratic lawmaker at a budget hearing Tuesday, calling allegations that he drinks excessively on the job and has been unreachable to his staff at times "unequivocally, categorically false".

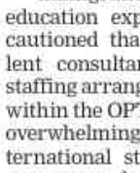
"I will not be tarnished by baseless allegations and fraudulent statements from the media," Patel told senator Chris Van Hollen during a testy exchange that began when the Maryland Democrat confronted him about a recent article in Atlantic magazine that painted an unflattering portrait of his leadership of of the nation's premier federal law enforcement agency.

Patel has filed a $250 million lawsuit over the story. Atlantic has said it stands by its reporting.

Patel sought to turn the tables by accusing him of "slinging margaritas on the taxpayer dime" in El Salvador, a reference to a visit the Democrat paid last year to Kilmar Abrego Garcia while he was jailed there following his mistaken deportation to the country. He asked Patel if he was willing to take a test meant to measure whether an individual has a drinking problem, prompting Patel to shoot back, "I'll take any test you're willing to take." AP

Gunshots at Philippine senate where ICC-wanted lawmaker took refuge

Manila: Gunshots broke out in chaotic scenes at the Philippine Senate on Wednesday where troops had been deployed after a politician wanted by the International Criminal Court urged supporters to mobilise and thwart his imminent arrest. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr called for calm and said no govt personnel were involved. There were no immediate reports of casualties. "We will get to the bottom of this," Marcos said in a video message.



Reuters

SWAT members stand outside the Philippine Senate in Manila on Wednesday

Senator Ronald dela Rosa, a 64-year-old former police chief and the main enforcer of Philippines ex-president Rodrigo Duterte's bloody "war on drugs", had hours earlier urged people to turn out to block his arrest and handover to the ICC. Marcos said no instruction had been given to apprehend him. The Hague-based court on Monday unsealed an arrest warrant for dela Rosa, dated Nov, on charges of crimes against humanity, the same that 81-year-old Duterte is accused of as he awaits trial in the ICC following his transfer last year.

Dela Rosa, who officials said was safe, has denied involvement in any illegal killings in the anti-drugs crackdown during Duterte's 2016-2022 presidency. "I am appealing to you, I hope you can help me. Do not allow another Filipino to be brought to The Hague," he said in a video on Facebook from his Senate office, where he has taken refuge since Monday when placed under legislative protection. Reuters journalists later heard more than a dozen shots ring out at the Senate.

Senate secretary Mark Llandro Mendoza said people he believed to be agents of the justice ministry's National Bureau of Investigation had attempted to enter the Senate and fired shots as they retreated.

Dela Rosa, who returned to the Senate Monday for the first time since disappearing from public view in Nov, has appealed to Marcos not to hand him over to ICC. The senator has filed an emergency petition with Supreme Court urging it to block any bid to transfer him to The Hague. SC gave all parties 72 hours to respond. REUTERS

France isolates 1,700 on ship over gastroenteritis

Paris: More than 1,700 passengers and crew on a British cruise ship were ordered to remain on board after an outbreak of gastrointestinal illness, French authorities said Wednesday. They dismissed any link to a deadly hantavirus outbreak on another vessel that has put European health authorities on alert.

The Ambition was midway through a 14-night cruise from Belfast and Liverpool that was due to take in ports in northern Spain and along France's Atlantic coast. It reached Bordeaux Tuesday evening, according to operator Ambassador Cruise Line.

The prefect of Nouvelle-Aquitaine region and Gironde department, Etienne Guyot, suspended disembarkation from the Ambition and restricted the vessel's interactions with the port of Bordeaux. Up to 50 passengers showed symptoms consistent with acute digestive infection after the ship's captain alerted authorities Tuesday. AP

Bob Blackman calls on UK police to investigate video targeting Modi

Naomi Canton

London: A British MP is calling on the UK police to investigate a video by an extremist group, which has resurfaced about a year later on social media, showing inflammatory content about PM Narendra Modi. The video has triggered outrage among the Indian diaspora. The video from a year ago has already gone viral among Hindus in Leicester East, the scene of the 2022 Leicester riots, Vinod Popat, convenor of Hindu Community Organisations Group, told **TOI**. He said he was worried it could incite unrest among Hindus.

MP Bob Blackman re-tweeted the video, describing it as "utterly depraved" and amounting to "incitement". "As Chair of the APPG for British Hindus, I am demanding that the police investigate this footage immediately and that the Crown Prosecution Service considers charges," he said.

Alan Mendoza, executive director, Henry Jackson Society, said: "The material now circulating is reckless and inflammatory... it is extreme theatre that is likely to intimidate and provoke. Whether it crosses the criminal threshold is for police and the CPS, but UK law can apply to threatening or hate inciting online content. Police should be assessing both the original posts and their renewed circulation..."

The video shows British-born activist Shakeel Afsar spouting inflammatory words. The video and similar posts are from the Instagram account of a Birmingham Muslim group called "Deen1fied" and were first posted in May 2025. It is not clear what caused them to resurface. Popat has shared the material with East Leicester police. A Leicester police spokesman told **TOI**: "Officers have been in contact with colleagues from West Midlands police regarding the content."

DAILY PLANET

AFP

Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales, greets people outside Reggio Emilia's town hall as part of a two-day visit in Italy. It is her first overseas trip since announcing her cancer was in remission

Australian developer says 'toxic' Trump hotel plan scrapped

Plans for a $1.1 billion, 91-storey Trump hotel and apartment tower in Australia have been scrapped because the American brand has become "toxic", the developer says. The Trump Organization announced in Feb the project for a soaring Trump tower on eastern Australia's Gold Coast, saying it would "redefine beachfront sophistication". David Young, chief executive of Australian developer Altus Property Group, said the project was scrapped because the Trump brand had become "toxic to Australians". "The writing was on the wall when the war started and I have been in discussions with many high-end luxury brands," he said in a post. An online petition against the hotel gathered more than 124,000 signatures.

Thief flees with 800-year-old skull from Czech church: An unknown thief snatched the 800-year-old skull believed to be of Saint Zdislava of Lemberk from a display box in a church in the northern Czech Republic and ran away with the relic, police said Wednesday. A fuzzy security camera photo showed a silhouette dressed in black with what police said was the skull of Zdislava of Lemberk in their hands running between the benches in the Saint Lawrence and Saint Zdislava basilica in Jablonne v Podjestedi, 110 km north of Prague, on Tuesday. Saint Zdislava of Lemberk lived from 1220 to 1252. She was canonised by Pope John Paul II in 1995.

EU to push states to act against LGBTQ 'conversion therapy' European Union will not ban "conversion therapy" targeting LGBTQ people but will push member states to take action against such practices, it said. The conversion "therapies" involve methods that seek to change the sexual orientation or gender identity or expression of members of gay, lesbian, queer and trans people. Conversion practices "have no place in our union", said Ursula von der Leyen, president of European Commission, which flew the LGBTQ flag outside its headquarters in Brussels Wednesday.

Won't tolerate foreign nat'ls abusing our visa system at expense of Americans: Vance

▶Continued from P1

Today we are announcing that we have identified over 10,000 foreign students who claim to be working for highly suspect employers. And that's just among the top 25 OPT employers," Lyons said.

Immigration lawyers and education experts have long cautioned that while fraudulent consultancies and fake staffing arrangements do exist within the OPT ecosystem, the overwhelming majority of international students use the programme legitimately to gain work experience after graduating from US institutions.

The latest crackdown is expected to fuel long-standing political efforts by conservative groups to scale back or eliminate the programme altogether. The idea of cutting back the OPT programme had first emerged during Trump's earlier presidency, in the administration's 2020 spring agenda. More recently, last April, Congressman Paul Gosar had introduced a bill in the house to eliminate the OPT programme on the grounds that "it completely undercuts American workers..." In the backdrop of this briefing, VP JD Vance posted on X: "Another great win for our fraud task force. We will not tolerate foreign nationals abusing our visa system at the expense of the American people."

OPT FRAUD ROW

OPT allows international students on F-1 visas to work for a year in the US after graduation. Students in STEM fields can obtain an additional 24-month extension. The extended period of OPT for STEM students is in particular viewed by Trump's hardline supporters as a programme that takes away jobs from locals.

According to the latest Open Doors report for 2024-25, 3.6 lakh Indian students were studying in the US. As many as 1.4 lakh were participating in the OPT programme.

International students (including innocent student victims) are labelled as guilty of fraud under the 'secret' OPT scam findings of US agencies — secret because the names of the tainted employers are not made public. Under a revised policy, which was reported by **TOI** last March, notices can be issued to students who in the past underwent or are undergoing OPT with blacklisted companies. This can result in arrest, detention and deportation, even years later (say: while an erstwhile student is gainfully employed with an H-1B visa). The recent briefing on OPT scams has triggered anxiety among international students, especially Indian students, who are the largest cohort.

According to ICE officials, investigators found alleged employers operating from empty offices, locked buildings, shared addresses and even residential homes supposedly employing hundreds of foreign students. Authorities also claimed some firms lacked proper employment records and showed signs of financial irregularities.

The agency further alleged that some companies listed offshore HR and payroll teams based in India and that, in certain cases, students claiming to work for US firms were actually being "trained" by companies operating from India.

"AT HIS AGE, THE TALENT IS INCREDIBLE. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOORYAVANSHI IN OTHER FORMATS. A LOT OF THINGS WILL CHANGE UNLESS SOMEONE, WHO IS A REALLY GOOD MANAGER, TELLS HIM TO BE A T20 SPECIALIST FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE."
—AB de Villiers | Ex-SA batter on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

VINTAGE VIRAT WINS IT FOR RCB

Opener Comes To The Party In Rain-Hit Game Against KKR

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AP

RED-HOT: Virat Kohli en route to his century against KKR on Wednesday

Virat Kohli delivered a vintage masterclass under pressure, smashing an unbeaten century (105 n.o; 60; 11x4; 3x6) to guide Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a commanding six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Raipur on Wednesday.

Bouncing back emphatically after consecutive ducks, Kohli's unbeaten 105 powered RCB to the top of the table and moved the defending champions closer to sealing a playoff berth. The victory also snapped KKR's four-match winning streak and left the former champions on the brink of elimination.

Heavy rain delayed the start until 8.45 pm, though the full quota of overs was completed. Invited to bat, KKR rode on Angkrish Raghuvanshi's unbeaten 71 and Rinku Singh's (49 n.o) late assault to post a competitive 192/4. Chasing 193, the night belonged to Kohli. RCB never allowed the asking rate to spiral, with Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal taking control after the early dismissal of Jacob Bethell (15).

Kohli signalled early intent, taking apart Vaibhav Arora in the second over with four boundaries, while Bethell matched him stroke for stroke in a fiery start that helped RCB race to 36 in three overs.

Kartik Tyagi broke the opening stand when Bethell top-edged a short ball, but Padikkal ensured there was no slowdown.

The left-hander was fluent, as he and Kohli stitched together a crucial 92-run partnership for the second wicket. While Padikkal played the aggressor through phases of the innings, Kohli anchored the chase with a measured knock. Kohli brought up his half-century off 32 deliveries.

KKR's spin duo of Sunil Narine and Anukul Roy managed to briefly slow the scoring rate, but the lack of wickets proved costly. Padikkal eventually departed for a brisk 39 off 27 balls, though by then RCB were well ahead in the chase.

Kohli then shifted gears effortlessly. He launched Anukul Roy over the sightscreen for a towering six before bringing up his century off just 58 deliveries in the penultimate over. The former RCB captain remained unbeaten as the hosts completed the chase with five balls to spare.

Earlier, KKR began cautiously, with skipper Ajinkya Rahane taking five deliveries to open his account before finding rhythm with a crisp boundary through extra cover. It was, however, Finn Allen who injected early momentum into the innings.

RCB's decision to start with Jacob Duffy alongside Bhuvneshwar Kumar instead of Josh Hazlewood backfired immediately as Allen attacked the New Zealand seamer in the second over. Elegant drives through the offside and an authoritative six over mid-off helped KKR collect 14 runs from the over and race to 18 without loss.

Allen looked dangerous, but Bhuvneshwar once again provided RCB with an early breakthrough. The seasoned pacer cramped the batter for room in the third over, forcing an edge through to wicketkeeper Jitesh Sharma as KKR slipped to 19/1. Rahane and Raghuvanshi then steadied the innings with a fluent partnership, adding 25 runs in quick time for the second wicket. Rahane struck a brisk 19 off 13 balls before Hazlewood removed him in his very first over.

From there, Raghuvanshi took control. Alongside Cameron Green, he added a crucial 68-run stand for the third wicket. Green contributed a useful 32, but Raghuvanshi remained the central figure. KKR finished strongly thanks to Rinku Singh's (49) explosive cameo.

SCOREBOARD

KKR: A Rahane c and b Hazlewood 19, F Allen c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 18, A Raghuvanshi run out Bhuvneshwar 71, C Green b Dar 32, R Singh not out 49; Extras: (lb1, w2) 3; **Total: (4 wkts in 20 ovrs) 192; FoW:** 1-23, 2-48, 3-116, 4-192; **Bowling:** Bhuvneshwar 4-0-34-1, Duffy 4-0-48-0, Hazlewood 4-0-35-1, Dar 4-0-35-1, Pandya 4-0-39-0.

RCB: J Bethell c & b Kartik Tyagi 15, V Kohli (not out) 105, D Padikkal c Rahane b Kartik Tyagi 39, R Patidar c Rahane b Narine 11, T David c Pandey b Kartik Tyagi 2, J Sharma (not out) 8. **Extras:** (LB-4, W-10) 14. **Total: (4 wkts in 19.1 overs) 194. FoW:** 1-37, 2-129, 3-157, 4-180. **Bowling:** Dubey 2.1-0-21-0, Arora 4-0-48-0, Tyagi 4-0-32-3, Narine 4-0-31-1, Green 2-0-22-0, Anukul 3-0-36-0.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
RCB	12	8	4	0	1.053	16
GT	12	8	4	0	0.551	16
SRH	12	7	5	0	0.331	14
PBKS	11	6	4	1	0.428	13
CSK	11	6	5	0	0.185	12
RR	11	6	5	0	0.082	12
DC	12	5	7	0	-0.993	10
KKR	11	4	6	1	-0.198	9
MI	11	3	8	0	-0.585	6
LSG	11	3	8	0	-0.907	6

'Having proper Test-match bowlers has its advantages'

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Ahmedabad: Gujarat Titans' fifth win on the trot, an 82-run demolition of Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Tuesday, was set up by a familiar weapon — their bowling in the Powerplay.

On a surface that continued to offer seam movement, GT's new-ball pair of Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada hit hard lengths at pace and left SRH's explosive top order with little room to breathe. Siraj began with a wicket maiden, removing Travis Head for a duck, before Rabada sent back Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Smaran Ravichandran to reduce SRH to 32/4 inside six overs. Chasing 169, SRH folded for 86 in 14.5 overs. Rabada finished with 3/28, Jason Holder returned 3/20 while Prasidh Krishna chipped in with 2/23.

GT spinner R Sai Kishore said the clarity in the team's pace-bowling plan had been shaped by head coach Ashish Nehra and captain Shubman Gill. "Overall this season, Siraj and Rabada have been hitting their lengths very well. That is the advantage of having proper Test-match bowlers in the lineup. We've been nicely led by Shubman Gill and Ashish Nehra in terms of the bowling philosophies, in terms of what lengths to bowl in the Powerplay," Kishore said. "On such a wicket, without depending too much on slower balls or yorkers, the bowlers trusted bowling a good length. I think proper Test-match bowling has made a huge difference for us this season."

Asked whether such a method could be counter-productive on flatter batting surfaces, Kishore stressed on the adaptability in GT's attack. "I think that is where adaptability comes into play. Rabada, Siraj and Holder are very good with their yorkers and into-the-pitch cutters as well," he said.

"But on this wicket, you had to be brave and bowl those hard lengths. That has been the philosophy. If it is a very classic batting wicket, we will be smart enough to bowl yorkers, slower bouncers and cutters to get batters out. I think we are equipped for that."

Punjab, MI battle off-field storms as rain looms

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Dharamshala: If ever there was a fixture weighed down by baggage even before a ball is bowled. As if Punjab and Mumbai's form wasn't enough of a concern, off-field noise around these teams and the threat of rain have combined to cast a long shadow over Thursday's proceedings here at the HPCA Stadium.

For Punjab Kings, the equation is simple: at least two wins from their remaining three matches to stay in the playoff race. For the ousted Mumbai Indians, it's about pride, disruption and perhaps reshaping narratives in a disappointing season.

Both teams turned up for their scheduled practice sessions, only for heavy rain to wash out any possibility of preparation. The weather threat hasn't fully passed either, with showers forecast on match day, adding another layer of uncertainty to a contest already loaded with tension. But if the clouds above Dharamshala are ominous, the storm within both camps has arguably been more disruptive.

Punjab Kings' campaign has spiralled sharply after a dream start. Once the only unbeaten side in the competition, they now find themselves scrambling after four consecutive losses. What has made matters worse is the off-field noise involving key players like Arshdeep Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal and Prabhsimran Singh, along with skipper Shreyas Iyer himself. The dip in results has mirrored the distractions, and in a telling gesture, Iyer recently visited a temple in a bid to reset the team's fortunes. It reflects a side searching not just for tactical answers but for mental clarity as well.

Piyal Bhattacharjee

WHAT'S IN STORE? Mumbai Indians' Rohit Sharma and Yuzvendra Chahal during training in Dharamshala on Wednesday

From a cricketing standpoint, Punjab's issues are evident. Their bowling, masked by strong batting performances early in the season, has been exposed. The pace unit, led by Arshdeep, has struggled for control and has the worst economy rate among the 10 teams.

Selection uncertainty hasn't helped either. The once-settled new-ball pairing of Arshdeep and Xavier Bartlett was disrupted to include Lockie Ferguson for a couple of games and then Ben Dwarshuis for another. The decision to field three left-arm pacers in the last outing against DC backfired.

Mumbai Indians, meanwhile, arrive with their own baggage. For them, the remainder of the season is about salvaging pride and potentially playing spoilers.

CUMMINS FINED FOR SLOW OVER RATE

Ahmedabad: Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper Pat Cummins has been fined for maintaining a slow over rate in the game against Gujarat Titans on Tuesday. Cummins was penalised Rs 12 lakh. "As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Cummins was fined Rs 12 lakhs," the IPL said in a statement. PTI

Punjab unperturbed by online smear campaign

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Dharamshala: Punjab Kings are not rattled by the ongoing rumours of team discord being circulated on social media, their assistant bowling coach Trevor Gonsalves said here on Wednesday, insisting the team remains focused on cricket even as speculation swirls around the off-field conduct of certain players amid talk of team discord. After having started the season in spectacular fashion, the team now has four losses on the trot.

Gonsalves said the players are "big enough" to handle online noise and that the coaching staff's priority is to "prepare the team for the matches ahead" rather than "chasing every circulating rumour" on social-media platforms.

TESTING TIMES: Shreyas Iyer (left) with coach Ricky Ponting

"Any blogger or any person can go and put up anything on social media and there will be lakhs of people agreeing to it and getting a kind of sadistic joy out of it," Gonalves said, adding, "We are more concerned about the cricketing part."

He reiterated that nothing has changed internally and that the dressing room remains confident about qualifying for the playoffs.

Asked about head coach Ricky Ponting's handling of the situation, Gonsalves painted a picture of calm leadership. "Ricky knows how to deal with such stuff. I've seen absolute professionalism in the way he handles the players as well as such situations.

"Being too much into social media can be good as well as bad for the players, but there's a limitation and a line has been drawn," Gonsalves said.

The sequence of events that got them here has been well-documented. A clip from pacer Arshdeep Singh's travel vlog went viral after eagle-eyed viewers alleged that Yuzvendra Chahal was seen vaping on the flight.

Then came social-media chatter about Prabhsimran Singh gaining 10kg of weight, players staying up till the early hours, avoiding practice and some even missing flights.

A rift between the captain and senior players was also alleged, for good measure.

The PBKS management issued a strong statement, initially calling out "sports journalists" specifically, before editing the post to remove that phrase. Prabhsimran, for his part, let his torso do the talking, posting a story on Instagram flexing his physique near a waterfall in Dharamshala, accompanied by a shushing emoji.

Meanwhile, co-owner Preity Zinta tweeted, "There's a difference between criticism and calculated misinformation. Healthy debate around the game is welcome, but the deliberate spread of fake narratives to damage individuals, the team, or the brand should not and will not be taken lightly. I urge everyone including verified voices and media professionals to exercise responsibility before amplifying unverified information."

With the league entering its decisive phase, Punjab is banking on senior players to deliver under pressure. Gonsalves suggested the current situation could, in fact, bring the best out of the squad.

'Bit above my pay grade': Bosch on Hardik's absence

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Dharamshala: Mumbai Indians, already out of IPL-2026, are facing fresh scrutiny with the continued absence of regular captain Hardik Pandya. Pandya, who is said to troubled with back spasms, has not travelled with the team here but posted a video of himself training back in Mumbai.

On Monday, MI allrounder Corbin Bosch tried to clear the air around the Pandya issue, saying, "Hardik is not only a leader but a fantastic cricketer. We've missed his presence when it comes to the on-field stuff. I'm sure the people that are making decisions and the people that are looking after him are trying to do the best for him and for the team itself. So, it has been tricky, but at the same time the game does move forward and we still need to play good cricket."

Asked why Pandya had not featured, Bosch deflected diplomatically and said, "A little bit above my pay grade, but I think whoever is making decisions and the physios and the management, they know a little bit more than I do."

MI's campaign has been defined by inconsistency. "I think we just haven't put a complete game. One day the bowlers will do well and then the batters maybe struggle or the batters do well, then the bowlers struggle," he said. "It is all about the key moments and we just haven't won them enough this year."

He also highlighted lapses in the field as a contributing factor. "Dropping crucial chances at crucial stages of matches have swung the game in the opposite direction and not in our favour. So, it's a multitude of things," Bosch said.

GALLERY

Noronha named replacement

Chennai Super Kings has selected Karnataka all-ro-under Macneil Noronha as a replacement for injured all-rounder Ramakrishna Ghosh, an IPL media release stated on Wednesday.

Brown out of Aus T20 WC squad: Fast bowler Darcie Brown was a surprise omission from Australia's 15-player squad named Wednesday for next month's T20 World Cup in England. The squad will be captained by Sophie Molineux. **Squad:** Sophie Molineux (captain), Ashleigh Gardner, Tahlia McGrath, Nicola Carey, Kim Garth, Lucy Hamilton, Grace Harris, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.

England drop Crawley: England have dropped opener Zak Crawley and selected Emilio Gay as Ben Duckett's opening partner in a reshaped squad for the first Test against New Zealand. **The squad:** Ben Stokes (captain), Rehan Ahmed, Gus Atkinson, Sonny Baker, Shoaib Bashir, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Ben Duckett, Matthew Fisher, Emilio Gay, James Rew, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Josh Tongue.

Dahiya takes one-shot lead: A bogey-free two-under 70 handed Arjun Dahiya a one-shot lead in Category 'A' (15-17 years) on day two of the IGU Andhra Pradesh Junior Boys Golf Championship in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. The 16-year-old aggregated to four-under 140. Bengaluru's Ishnidh Virdi returned a one-under 71 card to occupy the tied second spot. **Leading scores (after 36 holes):** Category 'A' (15-17 years): 140: Arjun Dahiya (Har, 70, 70); 141: Ishnidh Virdi (Kar, 70, 71), Vihaan Jain (Del, 67, 74); 142: Chaitanya Pandey (Del, 72, 70); Category 'B' (13-14): 142: Chaitanya Pandey (Del, 72, 70); 153: Aditya Misra (Del, 75, 78); 154: Aman Oswal (Mah, 72, 82); Category 'C' (13-14): 149: Shan Alvi (Del, 74, 75); 152: Drona Singh Dhull (Har, 76, 76); 160: Kabir Sachdev (Har, 84, 76); Vivaan Singh (Kar, 81, 80).

Visweswarampuram CC openers script dominant win

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Openers Sanjit Sathish and Advay Choudhary struck commanding centuries to power Visweswarampuram Cricket Club (VCC) to a massive 352-run victory over Mathikere Cricket Club in the KSCA U-16 inter-club cricket tournament recently.

After opting to bat, VCC's opening pair dominated from the outset, propelling the team to a daunting 421/8 in 50 overs. In reply, Mathikere CC crumbled for just 69 in 27.5 overs.

Skipper Sanjit and Advay stitched together a match-defining 253-run partnership off 169 deliveries. Sanjit was the more aggressive of the two, smashing 177 off just 99 balls, an innings studded with 30 boundaries and three sixes. Advay provided strong support with a fluent 112 from 102 deliveries, including 14 fours and a six.

Although Manvik Mandanna struck twice in consecutive deliveries during the 37th over, the damage had already been done.

Any hopes of a comeback for Mathikere were quickly extinguished when Avyay claimed wickets off successive deliveries in the fourth over of the chase. The opposition never recovered from the early blows and folded up in the 28th over.

Brief scores: Visweswarampuram CC (1): 421/8 in 50 overs (Sanjit Sathish 177 (99b; 30x4; 3x6), Advay Choudhary 112 (102b; 14x4;1x6), Rupankar Nandi 42, Swastik Ekhe 25; Rishi Chetan 2-56, Manvik Mandanna 3-44) **bt Mathikere CC: 69 all out in 27.3 overs** (Avyay 2-5, Vedansh Pandey 2-15, Vivaan Balani 2-13, Harish Kartik 2-7).

Johnson CC: 162 all out in 36.4 overs (Amarkant Sharma 28, Rajdeep Banerjee 35; Vardhan Jayaram 4-32, Vipin S 2-22, Puneeth Raj 2-29) **lost to Young Cricketers (1): 166/8 in 41.5 overs** (Vyom Ranjith 43, Saideep S 26; Sai Saharsh 2-39, Bipin Shetty 4-34).

YMCA CC (3): 75 all out in 28 overs (Sameer Hegde 2-18; Samarth HN 4-9, Sharav Chetan 2-16) **lost to Mount Joy CC: 76/3 in 13.5 overs** (Avik Jha 46n.o; Ayush Barath 2-32).

Jawans CC: 217 all out in 41.2 overs (Shaurya Yadav 47, Ashwath Reddy 53, Mahesh Kantharaj 27; Ayush Singh 2-18, Samarth Karumbaiah 2-32, Nikith Harsha 3-57, Vidit Mishra 3-30) **bt Wilson Garden CC: 194 all out in 46.1 overs** (Lohithaksha R 68, Siddharth Karumbaiah 31; Vivaan Desai 3-34, Lalit Ramanareddy 2-22, Hari Om Ojha 2-37, Arnav Rajiv 2-32).

Sir Syed Cricketers: 97 all out in 34.4 overs (Mithun Rao 2-11, Viresh Moktan 2-19, Yuvraj Ng 5-23) **lost to Sapphire CC: 100/4 in 21.5 overs** (Sangeeta Sashang 37; Aarith Gowda 2-18, Purab Soni 2-27).

Picked to shoot for US in WC, Ankita keeps father's dream alive

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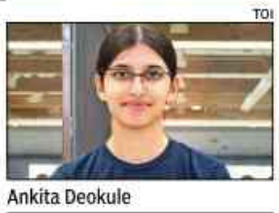
Pune: Amol Deokule knows the value of representing the country at a global stage. While the former shooter himself couldn't play at the highest level, his dream is being fulfilled by his daughter Ankita. Amol, now a US citizen, is happy to see Ankita make it to the US squad for the Munich World Cup that begins on May 24. Ankita will be representing the US in women's 25m sports pistol event.

Ankita is the second shooter of Indian origin to be part of the US team after Suman Sanghera, who represented the nation at many international competitions. Suman is also part of the team for Munich.

"It is a moment of pride for me. Representing my country at the highest level is like a dream coming true. I am looking forward to giving my best at a competition which will see the best of the sport," Ankita told TOI from Ohio. Ankita will be participating in the event where one of her favourite shooters, Manu Bhaker, will also shoot. "I have huge respect for Manu, I saw her 25m match at the Paris Games. I am excited to shoot in Munich," she said.

TOI



Ankita Deokule

Ankita was born in the US while her father Amol moved to the country in the early 2000s. An IT professional, Amol was a shooter and had participated in the national level competition before giving up the sport for career. "I was born and brought up in Mumbai and represented Maharashtra in 10m air rifle events in the late 1990s. But then I had to give up the sport for my career," he said.

Amol says he didn't think this far when he introduced Ankita to shooting post the Covid-19 outbreak. "After the Pandemic outbreak, I wanted to start shooting again. My friends here, who used to shoot rifle, switched to pistol. Even I thought of resuming the sport but this time with pistol. I used to take my daughters Ankita and Anjali to the range. Ankita developed interest and started shooting air pistol in 2021 and later picked up 25m sports pistol in early 2023," he said, adding, "She started participating in the state-meets in the same year and her game improved when she joined the Ohio State University pistol team and started training under 1996 Atlant Games silver medallist Emil Milev.."

Sreejesh questions HI's faith in Indian coaches

Former India Goalkeeper Bitter About Being Overlooked For A Second Stint With Jr India Team

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Bengaluru: Tensions between coaches and Hockey India (HI) are not new, but on Wednesday, former India captain PR Sreejesh publicly criticised the federation over the treatment of Indian coaches after being overlooked for the junior men's team chief coach role.

HOCKEY

Sreejesh, who guided the junior side to bronze at the FIH Junior World Cup last year, took charge of the team soon after retiring following the 2024 Paris Olympics. His contract ran until Dec 2025.

In a strongly worded social media post, the 38-year-old questioned the federation's decision-making process after learning that a foreign coach had been selected for the role

"It seems like my coaching career comes to an end after 1.5 years, during which we played 5 tournaments and secured 5 podium finishes, including a Junior World Cup bronze medal.

I have heard about coaches getting fired after bad performances. But this is the first time I am experiencing being removed to make way for a foreign coach," lamented Sreejesh. One of the finest goalkeepers to have played for the country, Sreejesh is also among the rare international goalkeepers to transition into a head coach's role. He was among the candidates interviewed for the junior chief coach's post last month, but HI has finalised a foreign appointment for the side currently training at the SAI South Centre in Bengaluru under coach Janardhana.

According to a statement from HI president Dilip Tirkey, Sreejesh was offered the development squad coaching, which he turned down.

Admitting that he was offered the role, the Padma Bhushan awardee told TOI, "I took over the junior team soon after retirement with no coaching experience. Now that I have experience, they want someone with more experience. But if experience is the criterion, how do I fit into the development team?"

Sreejesh, who has played most of his career under foreign coaches, questioned their dominance in the coaching arena. "There are 10 foreign coaches and support staff in the system now, with very few Indian coaches. I'm not against them, but for years, we have been talking about developing Indian coaches; where is the development?

It is also learnt that another role Sreejesh refused was that of a goalkeeping coach of the senior team.

Taking a swipe at former Indian captain Tirkey, Sreejesh, a FIH level 3 coach, stated, "The Hockey India president stated that the chief coach of the senior men's team prefers a foreign head coach for the junior team, believing it will help develop Indian hockey from the junior level through to the senior level. Hence, the continued preference for foreign coaches."

Refuting the claims, Tirkey said, "In no terms has it ever been conveyed to him that there has been any preference for a foreign coach by the chief coach."

With no immediate role in the national setup, Sreejesh will return to Kerala, where he serves as joint director (Sports) in the state general and higher education department.

TOI

MEDALS UNDER SREEJESH

2024
- Sultan of Johor Cup - **Bronze**
- Jr Asia Cup - **Gold**

2025
- Sultan of Johor Cup - **Silver**
- FIH Junior World Cup- **Bronze**

HI STATEMENT

"The coaching term for PR Sreejesh concluded as per contract in Dec 2025. After this, as per protocol the position was advertised and applicants were shortlisted and finalised as per a proper selection process basis merit. A coach with distinguished qualifications has been selected as a result of this process."

SNAP SHOTS

Swiatek in semis

Iga Swiatek gave another indication that she might be back to her brilliant best after destroying Jessica Pegula 6-1, 6-2 at the Foro Italico on Wednesday and breezing into the Italian Open semifinals. In the men's tournament Casper Ruud reached the semifinal beating Karen Khachanov 6-1, 1-6, 6-2 .

Musetti withdraws: Italian Lorenzo Musetti has withdrawn from the French Open with a thigh injury, the world number 10 said on Wednesday, describing the decision as extremely difficult.

Venus to play in French Open doubles: Venus Williams will play in the women's doubles at the French Open this month with Hailey Baptiste, who is 21 years her junior.

India in quarters: Indian girls set up a quarterfinal clash against Australia after finishing second in their group in the Junior Billie Jean King Cup (U-16) Asia-Oceania Final Qualifying team tennis competition in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Wednesday. India went down to China 1-2 in their final round-robin tie in Group 3, which the latter topped with an all-win record. **Results: China bt India 2-1** (Jiayi Sun bt Aaradhya Meena 6-2, 6-1; Fangyu Shang lost to Jensi Kanabar 3-6, 3-6; Sun/Jinling Shi bt Jensi/Anandita Upadhyay 6-1, 6-4).

Gyaneshwari bags 2 medals: India's Gyaneshwari Yadav bagged a double by winning silver and bronze medals in the 53kg category at the Asian Senior Weightlifting Championships in Gandhinagar on Wednesday.

Manav, Kiben star for FC White Field: Manav and Kiben struck a hat-trick each to power FC White Field to a comfortable 6-1 win over PKR FC in a KSFA South Zone Group A 'C' division league championship match in Bengaluru on Wednesday. In another contest at the Bangalore Football Stadium, Blue Star FC handed La Esperanze a 3-1 defeat. **Results: South Zone: Group A:** FC White Field 6 (Manav 8, 11, 30, Kiben 18, 48, 56) bt PKR FC 1 (Nivas 17); Blue Star FC 3 (Prashanth R 19, Shadab NS 54, Nishanth JD 46) bt La Esperanza FC 1 (Stalin 30+2-pen); Football Aura 2 (Puneeth Clivert Martis 14, Akheel Muhammed 28) bt Silican FC 1 (Roshan 59). **Group B:** Universal Blues 6 (Abhijitha KA 8, 10, Sarun NV 9, 28, Sayooj MS 21, Alphin K Wilson 27) Undisputed FC 0; Blues Football Academy 1 (Arun 60+3) drew with Samurai Bengaluru FA 1 (Ranbir Walia Rao 16); Kodagu FC 7 (Sujith K 19, 40, Rahul L 32, Akash P 35, 44, Krishnang S Gowda 36, Rishon D Almeida 48) bt Velocita FC 1 (Om 32). **Today's matches: South Zone: Group C:** United Ace FC vs Play Smart FC (8am); FX FC Bangalore vs Technico FF (9.15am); BM FC vs Vanquisher Sports (10.30am). **Group D:** Freelancers FC vs FC Real Bengaluru (2pm); Bangalore Champs Academy vs North East Youth FC (3.15pm); Noel Wilson FC vs TAL FC- 4.30pm.

State ranking badminton tourney: The Karnataka Badminton Association in association with district administration of Vijayapura will conduct state level (U-15 & U-17) badminton tournament from May 17-23. The tournament will be held at the Dr BR Ambedkar Indoor Stadium, Vijayapura.

Tyagi shock for Yuta

Manish Enters Quarters; Mukund Ousted

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Chethan Shivakumar

FINE FORM: Manish Sureshkumar in Bengaluru on Wednesday

Bengaluru: Local hope Krish Tyagi continued his impressive run at the Karnataka Open ATP 50 Challenger, upsetting another higher-ranked opponent on Wednesday. The 19-year-old, ranked 1322 in the ATP circuit, defeated Japan's Yuta Kawahashi, who is ranked 685 places above him, 6-4, 6-4 at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium. The Bengaluru player had earlier defeated Japan's Taiyo Yamanaka (857) in the opening round.

Against Kawahashi, the youngster delivered a dominant performance, powered by strong serves and forehand winners. The one hour 16-minute match saw Tyagi

ATP CHALLENGER

fire a couple of aces in the second game before securing a crucial break in the third to take a 2-1 lead in the opening set. He consistently troubled his opponent with sharp down-the-line winners, laying the foundation for a confident victory.

The second set followed a similar pattern, with Tyagi racing to a 3-1 lead after he hit three aces in the fourth game to eventually seal another memorable win and reach his maiden ATP Challenger quarterfinal. Likewise, Manish Sureshkumar (829) also secured his maiden Challenger quarterfinal berth after Britain's Alastair Gray retired due to illness while trailing 4-6, 2-3.

However, Mukund Sasikumar bowed out after a 4-6, 4-6 loss to second seed Hamish Stewart of Great Britain in one hour and 32 minutes.

Gray began strongly against Sureshkumar, taking an early 2-0 lead with a break of serve and extending it to 4-2. But the Chennai player responded impressively, winning the next four games to clinch the first set.

It soon became evident that Gray was struggling physically, moving gingerly across the court and conceding easy points. In the sixth game of the second set, the 27-year-old retired after being unable to move properly to return Sureshkumar's groundstrokes.

Meanwhile, top seed Keegan Smith survived a tough challenge from Czech Republic's Dominik Palan. After dropping the first set, Smith fought back to register a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory to move into the quarterfinals.

Results: Singles (Pre-quarterfinals): 2-Hamish Stewart (GBR) bt Mukund Sasikumar (Ind) 6-4, 6-4; 5-Ognjen Milic (Srb) bt Joshua Charlton (Aus) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; 1-Keegan Smith (USA) bt Dominik Palan (Cze) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Ilya Ivashka bt Kokoro Isomura (Jpn) 6-1, 6-2; 7-Maximus Jones (Tha) bt Amit Vales (Isr) 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-4; Manish Sureshkumar (Ind) bt Q-Alastair Gray (GBR) 6-4, 3-2 (retd); WC-Kriish Tyagi (Ind) bt Yuta Kawahashi (Jpn) 6-4, 6-4; 4-Philip Sekulic (Aus) bt Q-Christopher Papa (USA) 6-2, 6-3.

Dharshan rewrites 17-year-mark

Teenager Betters Rehan Poncha's 200 Metres Butterfly Record Set In 2009; Tanishi Crowned Individual Champion

Pix: Syed Asif

CUP OF JOY: Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre celebrate. Below: Dharshan S in action

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Dharshan S of Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre stole the spotlight on the final day of the State senior swimming championships, which concluded here on Wednesday. The 17-year-old eclipsed the men's 200 metres mark, which was created before he was born.

SWIMMING

Dharshan clocked 2:02.57 to better the previous championship record of 2:03.21 set by Olympian and fellow BAC swimmer Rehan Poncha in 2009. Speaking after the race, Dharshan told TOI, "About one month ago, I told my coach that I would break this record that was set a year before I was born," he said.

The teenager also claimed gold in the 800 m freestyle event, clocking 8:25.18 to cap off an impressive performance, which earned him the individual championship.

Hosts Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre retained the overall championship title with 545 points. Among women, Tanishi Gupta from Dolphin Aquatics, who had

a fine run in the competition with three record-breaking performances, won the top prize.

Results: Women: 50M: 1. Charitha Phanindrana (ESA; 26.78), 2. Rujula S (Dol); 27.23), 3. Nina Venkatesh (Dol); 27.34); **200M Breaststroke:** 1. S Lakshya (BAC; 2:40.86R), 2. Thanya S (JIRS; 2:42.83, 3. Lineysha AK (Dol; 2:49.29); **4x200M freestyle relay:** 1. Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre 'A' 8:57.08 R (Tisya Sonar, Adithi Vinayak Relekar, Vihitha Nayana, Shirin), 2. Dolphin Aquatics 'A' 9:17.02, 3. Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre 'B' 9:23.84; **50M Butterfly:** 1. Tanishi Gupta (Dol; 27.92R), 2. Nina Venkatesh (Dol; 28.19), 3. Charitha Phanindrana (ESA; 28.23); **800M Freestyle:** 1. Sri Charani Tumu (JIRS; 9:26.23), 2. Dhinidhi Desinghu (Dol; 9:27.03), 3. Aditi Mulay (BAC; 9:32.90); **4x100M Medley:** 1. Dolphin Aquatics 'A' 4:25.06R (Suvana C Baskar, Lineysha AK, Tanishi Gupta, Dhinidhi Desinghu), 2. Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre 'A' 4:31.87, 3. (Dolphin Aquatics 'B' 4:33.01.

Men: 50M Butterfly: 1. Chinthan Shetty (LAS; 25.64), 2. Prithvi M (BAC; 25.73), 3. Harikarthik Velu (GF; 25.93); **200M Breaststroke:** 1. Manikanta L (BAC; 2:21.10 R), 2. Surya Jhoyappa (BAC; 2:23.49), 3. Daniel Paul (BAC, 2:23.69); **800M Freestyle:** 1. Dharshan S (BAC; 8:25.18), 2. Dhakshan S (BAC; 8:33.76), 3. Shivank Vishwanath (BAC; 8:34.09); **4x100M Relay:** 1. Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre 'A' 3:42.48 (Monish PV, Sharan S, Shrivardhan Patil, Shivank Vishwanath), 2. Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre 'B' 3:43.41, 3. Dolphin Aquatics 'A' 3:47.52; **50M Breaststroke:** 1. Vidith Shankar (Dol; 28.58R), 2. Surya Jhoyappa (BAC; 30.06), 3. Pruthvik DS (BAC; 30.41); **200M Backstroke**: 1. Akash Mani (BAC; 2:04.62), 2. Vedanta VM (BAC; 2:07.28), 3. Aman Sungar (Dol; 2:10.67); **200M Butterfly:** 1. Dharshan S (BAC; 2:02.57R), 2. Shivank Vishwanath (BAC; 2:07.03), 3. Anish Kore (BAC; 2:08.21). **Individual champions: Men:** Dharshan S (BAC, 43 pts; 2 record); **Women:** Tanishi Gupta (Dol; 53 pts; 3 record); **Overall champions:** Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre 545 pts — **Jia Khosla**

THE NEYMAR QUESTION

Brazilian Star's World Cup Call Won't Be Based On Sentiment, Says Coach Ancelotti

Pix: Reuters, Getty Images

HEART BEATS FOR BRAZIL: Neymar awaits his fate

> **Neymar is an important player for this country because of the talent he has always shown. He has improved a lot recently and is playing regularly. It is not such an easy decision for me. We have to weigh up the pros and cons carefully."**
>
> **—Carlo Ancelotti**

Rio de Janeiro: Carlo Ancelotti will walk into Monday's Brazil squad announcement with a nation peering over his shoulder and one burning question hanging in the Rio de Janeiro air: Neymar or no Neymar?

The 34-year-old forward is Brazil's all-time leading scorer, but his place at the 2026 World Cup, which kicks off next month, hangs in the balance after years of injury trouble and an underwhelming return to Santos. That leaves Ancelotti weighing romance against the cold, practical demands of fitness as he lays out his high-intensity blueprint for the record five-time champions.

"When you have to choose, you have to consider many things," Ancelotti said on Tuesday. "Neymar is an important player for this country because of the talent he has always shown. But he has had problems and is working hard to recover. He has improved a lot recently and is playing regularly. It is, obviously, not such an easy decision for me. We have to weigh up the pros and cons carefully."

Ancelotti was at the Brazilian Football Confederation's headquarters in Rio, overlooking Barra da Tijuca, and spoke about the delicate selection call with the calm.

. Teammates have publicly lobbied for Neymar's inclusion, while supporters remain split between affection and anxiety over whether his body can still keep pace with his imagination. "I know full well that Neymar is much loved, not only by the public but also by the players," Ancelotti said.

"This is also a factor, because we have to consider the atmosphere that will surround Neymar's call-up. It's not as if I'm going to drop a bombshell in the dressing room. He's very well-liked, he's very much loved.

The bigger question may be whether Neymar still fits the football. Ancelotti wants four forwards who can run, press and track back, a demanding template for a player who has struggled to string together a sustained run of matches.

The Italian, however, said Neymar had shown signs of progress. "He has improved his fitness a lot in recent matches," Ancelotti said. "He has played some very good matches lately. His fitness has improved. He can maintain a high intensity in a match. But there are matches and matches..."

Ancelotti said the decision whether or not to select Neymar would be his alone.

"I haven't been pressured by anyone to call up Neymar," he said. "The decision will be 100% professional. Nothing else."

Carnival-inspired Brazil

Ancelotti said he found the clearest version of what he wants from Brazil not on a pitch, but at Carnival. "If you go to watch the parade here in Rio, everything is perfectly organised - the timing, the music, everything is perfect. These are characteristics of the Brazilian people that I saw at the Carnival and that I want to bring to the national team: the joy, the energy, the organisation, the commitment, the attitude."

The Italian rejected the idea that Brazil have lost their aura. "Brazil has something special, and always will," he said. "Brazil has, and always has had, the ability to produce great talent. Even now this country produces more talent than other countries."

However, Ancelotti said Brazil had been slower than some nations to adapt to a game increasingly shaped by intensity, structure and collective work. "Brazil has the same qualities as always but you have to support that creativity with organisation, commitment and attitude," he said. REUTERS

FIFA'S CLUB COMPENSATION

FIFA plans to distribute a significantly large amount of money to clubs whose players will be at the World Cup finals...

FIFA's spending for club compensation	$355m
Increase from 2022 and 2018	$146m
Money per player per day	$10,950
For a team knocked out in first stage (per player)	$250,000
Total players (48 teams, 26 players per squad)	1,248

FINANCIAL REWARDS FOR QUALIFIED TEAMS

Total prize purse	$871m
Minimum guaranteed payout for teams exiting in the group stage	$12.5m

Pellegrini delighted after securing Real Betis' CL return after 20 years

Real Betis manager Manuel Pellegrini said qualifying for the Champions League after a 20-year absence marked the completion of a goal they set for themselves on the first day of the season after his side sealed a top-five finish in La Liga. They reached the Conference League final against Chelsea last season. "The team's greatest merit was always getting back up after losing. I think all those stumbles were more than compensated for today with the great celebration we had." AGENCIES

Late own goal keeps Ronaldo waiting for Saudi title: Goalkeeper Bento's injury-time own goal denied Cristiano Ronaldo his first Saudi Pro League title on Tuesday as Al Nassr drew 1-1 with Al Hilal. The Brazilian fumbled a long throw-in into his own net in the eighth extra minute. Ronaldo, 41, is yet to taste domestic honours. AGENCIES

Clubs propose new model for ISL

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Panaji: India's top tier football clubs have proposed a club-led model for the future operation and commercialisation of the Indian Super League (ISL), with Genius Sports as the data and technology partner. Clubs are ready to pay the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Rs 12.4 crore for 2026-27 season, the same fee structure presently contemplated under the Genius Sports model as "administrative fees". The proposal provides 90% of the economic interest in the league structure collectively to the clubs, while the federation retains 10% ownership and governance participation.

The proposal has the backing of all clubs, except East Bengal, and is likely to be discussed when AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey meets club owners in Kolkata on Saturday. A day later, a general body meeting has been convened to discuss the proposal by Genius Sports.

The London-headquartered data company has bid Rs 64.4 crore annually with 5% increase every year – totalling approx. Rs 2,130 crore across 20 years – for commercial rights of the ISL and Federation Cup.

A golfer's career is often defined by Major show

Akshay Bhatia

While we tee up every week with the goal of winning, a golfer's career is ultimately measured by their performance in the Major.

So, history and legacy means a lot to me, even more so after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational this year. When you look at the achievements of Nicklaus, Palmer or Woods, you realize why the Majors carry such immense weight because they represent the standard those legends set. This is the chase that will bring together the entire top-100 and more of world golf at the PGA Championship as it returns to the Aronimink Golf Club. It is a gruelling, traditional test: long, tree-lined and guarded by thick rough and lightning-fast greens.

I came close at the Players last year and finished tied-third, won a Signature event this season and have teed off at the play-offs, but to contend on the back nine on Sunday at the Majors is what professional golfers dream of.

Earlier this year, I travelled to India with high hopes for the Hero Indian Open, only to miss the cut. It was a humbling reminder. At nearly two and a half feet tall, the Wanamaker Trophy is one of the most imposing prizes in sports. I'm ready to take my shot.

Hero

(AKSHAY BHATIA, A 3-TIME WINNER ON THE PGA TOUR, IS ALSO A GLOBAL BRAND AMBASSADOR OF HERO MOTOCORP).

Squash coach turns player to help wards

M.Sudharshan@timesofindia.com

Chennai: National head coaches are usually confined to the sidelines. But at the National Doubles Squash Championship here, Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu has stepped beyond that familiar role. The 37-year-old is back in competitive mode, partnering with 22-year-old Om Semwal in the men's category.

After his original partner pulled out, Semwal decided not to take part. But a last-minute call from Harinder changed things, with the national coach asking if he would be willing to team up. Incidentally, Harinder was partnering India No. 2 Ramit Tandon before the latter pulled out. This is the first time a national coach in Indian squash is taking part in an Open National competition.

On Wednesday, Harinder and Semwal received a walkover to progress to the quarterfinals. "It feels different. I am playing with one of the upcoming boys to give him the experience of what it feels like to compete at a higher stage," said Harinder, a multiple Asian Games medallist. "I am here to share my expertise with everyone, and it is in fact good for the players. Yesterday (Tuesday), we had a long training session where I spoke to Joshna (Chinappa), Abhay (Singh), Vela (Velavan Senthilkumar), and the other pairs about what they need to do on court. In fact, it is working in their favour."

The trials for the Asian Games will be held in Chennai from June 12 to 16.

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THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF BANGALORE TIMES |

VIRAT KOHLI SMASHES HIS 9TH IPL TON AS HE POWERS DEFENDING CHAMPIONS RCB TO A SIX-WICKET WIN OVER KKR AND HELP THE TEAM TOP POINTS TABLE 19

Venugopal or Satheesan? Cong to end Kerala CM suspense today

New Delhi: After nine days of intense lobbying that fuelled rumours, Congress will end the suspense on Thursday morning by naming Kerala's next chief minister, with leader of opposition V D Satheesan, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal and veteran **Ramesh Chennithala in contention**.

All three aspirants pressed their claims before the Congress leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi at a one-on-one interaction last Saturday.

While Venugopal, a Rahul confidant, is said to have garnered the support of a majority of MLAs, Satheesan is widely viewed as the man who spearheaded the party and UDF charge during the five years of the Left front govt, which won a repeat term in 2021. Chennithala pitched his case on seniority and acceptability. AICC spokesman Jairam Ramesh said the high command has concluded discussions. TNN

▶ Legislative meet, P 11

State allows hijab, janivara along with school uniforms

Nixes 2022 Order; Effective From New Academic Yr

Niranjan Kaggere & SruthySusan Ullas | TNN

Bengaluru: Nearly four years after Karnataka emerged as the national epicentre of the hijab row, the state govt Wednesday formally withdrew a contentious 2022 order on dress codes at educational institutions, issued by the previous BJP-led govt.

Replacing the earlier order with a fresh policy, the state govt has now allowed students to wear "limited community or belief-based symbols" — including the turban, sacred thread (janivara), shivadaara, rudraksh and headscarf/hijab — along with prescribed uniforms in schools and colleges across the state. This includes all govt, aided, and private institutions.

School education and literacy minister Madhu Bangarappa said the new rule would come into force from the ensuing academic year and would be applicable to all educational institutions from class 1 to 12 across Karnataka.

The state govt's decision to revoke the earlier order and permit students to wear religious and community-based symbols comes at a politically sensitive time, with the Federation of Karnataka State Muslim Organisations set to hold a mega convention in Bengaluru Saturday.

The organisation has announced it will release a report, titled 'What did the Congress govt promise? What has it done? What next?' outlining a charter of demands relating to the community, including the hijab ban.

In a sharp reaction to the latest decision, principal opposition BJP accused the govt of practising "selective secularism". It alleged the Congress govt was trying to revive the hijab issue for "vote-bank appeasement" after the recent bypoll scare.

▶ Saffron shawls, P 3

APPLIES TO CLASS 1 TO 12

- State **govt withdraws 2022 order**, issues fresh guidelines allowing students to wear **hijab, turban, sacred thread & rudraksh** with school and college uniforms
- Says the new rule will come into force from new academic year and it will **apply to all educational institutions from classes 1 to 12** across Karnataka
- School education minister **Madhu Bangarappa says** the govt will allow symbols associated with all religions and communities, provided **they do not interfere with institutional discipline**
- **BJP says Congress govt trying to revive the hijab issue** for "vote-bank appeasement" after the recent bypoll scare
- Karnataka govt says new order **balances institutional discipline with individual freedom**

GBA halves B-khata conversion fee to 2% as part of Bhu Guarantee

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a major relief for property owners with B-khatas, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Wednesday reduced the fee for conversion to A-khata from 5% to 2% of guidance value under the state govt's newly launched Bhu Guarantee scheme.

The move is expected to benefit owners of seven lakh properties listed under the 'B' category in the civic agency's property register.

GBA, though, did not disclose the extent of revenue loss due to this reduction in khata conversion fee.

Deputy CM D K Shivakumar said the initiative is meant to serve as the Congress govt's sixth guarantee to the people of Karnataka, which is part of the 'My Khata, My Right' movement that aims to deliver e-khatas at doorsteps.

As part of the outreach, the govt will roll out the e-khata Open House, starting May 16. Camps will be held every Saturday for three months at 52 venues across the five city corporations. These camps will assist property owners with e-khata services, including new registrations, conversions, and grievance redressal.

▶ Fin services, P 2

7L TO BENEFIT

- GBA cuts **B-khata to A-khata conversion fee from 5% to 2%** of guidance value
- Nearly **7L B-khata property owners in Bengaluru to benefit**
- **State govt set to launch E-khata Open House camps** at 52 venues from May 16
- Drive **aims to help owners regularise properties**, access loans and legal documents
- **No clarity yet on refund for owners** who have already paid 5% conversion fee

Won't revisit 'Hinduism a way of life' ruling, SC says in Sabarimala case

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New Delhi: Dealing with the sensitive issue of 'faith vs fundamental rights' emanating from quashing of a Sabarimala Ayyappa temple custom barring the entry of women in the 10-50 age group, a nine-judge SC bench on Wednesday said it would not revisit SC's three-decade-old ruling of "Hinduism is a way of life".

As counsel after counsel questioned various religious practices in several denominations under the umbrella of Hinduism and favoured identification of its essential religious practices that alone could get protection under the Constitution, the bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, A G Masih, P B Varale, R Mahadevan and J Bagchi said the court should not be the forum to determine what is an ideal religious practice.

Justice Nagarathna said, "As far as Hinduism is concerned, the court had long back settled that it is a way of life. We need not reiterate it nor revisit it."

▶ Space for dissenters, P 12

IN THE COURTS

- SC says constitutional courts should be extremely **cautious in questioning** a denomination's **collective religious beliefs** | Inside flap
- Pocso **court sentences youth**, a juvenile at the time of the crime, **to 20 years for rape** of girl with learning difficulties | Inside flap
- 'Can't allow ruin of entire generation': Delhi HC asks Google and Apple to **prevent dissemination of obscene and pornographic content** through mobile applications on their play stores | P 12

OPT faces fresh heat in US amid fraud claims

Optional Practical Training program, a crucial post-study work route for international students in US, is again in the crosshairs of immigration debate, after federal authorities alleged widespread fraud and abuse within the system, **reports Lubna Kably.** Authorities claim to have identified 10,000 students linked to "highly suspect employers". Acting chief of Immigration & Customs Enforcement Todd Lyons described OPT program as a "magnet for fraud" and warned of criminal, civil and immigration consequences for those found abusing the system.

▶ 'Won't tolerate...', P 18

Dealmaker & the dragon: Trump seeks to do business with Beijing

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

AP

Trump's CEO-heavy delegation includes Elon Musk, Jensen Huang and Tim Cook

Washington: Americans were holding their breath as US President Donald Trump arrived in Beijing on Wednesday, not merely over the outcome of the summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping, but whether their own mercurial head of state might stumble into another unscripted diplomatic or political controversy.

▶ China: 4 red lines must not be challenged, P 18

The visit, the first by a US President in nearly a decade, comes wrapped in imperial pomp and choreographed grandeur. But underneath the ceremony lies a more transactional reality: Trump is effectively in China hunting for a trade deal that can ease economic anxieties at home, revive American exports ranging from Boeing aircraft and soybeans to ethanol, beef and sorghum, and calm voters rattled by the Iran conflict.

The symbolism of the trip is striking. Eight years after Trump's first Beijing visit in 2017, he returns to a vastly altered geopolitical landscape in which Beijing increasingly presents itself not as a challenger but as a co-equal power, if not a superior one.

▶ Trump loyalists, P 18

NLSIU students protest till 4am over hostel facilities

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In a letter to NLSIU administration, students said: "...Women are being treated like cattle on campus"

Bengaluru: Hundreds of students of National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, staged a night-long protest on campus over lack of amenities in women's hostels, second-class treatment of girl students and "blatant misogyny" in the room-allotment process.

They gathered at the basketball court around 10pm Tuesday, and protested till 4am Wednesday. Male students came out in large numbers in support of their classmates.

Prof Sudhir Krishnaswamy, vice-chancellor of the premier law school, met the students on Wednesday afternoon and listened to their grievances. A student said the V-C said he would respond in writing in 7-10 days. During protest, the varsity registrar and campus director met them, but there was no immediate resolution.

▶ Construction work, P 2

Situation not alarming, but be cautious: NITI vice-chief

Amid concerns over the impact of the West Asia crisis on India, Ashok Lahiri, the new NITI Aayog vice-chairman, on Wednesday said that the economic situation was not alarming, but it was important to err on the side of caution as there was no certainty on how long the tension will continue, **reports Sidhartha.**

▶ FULL Q&A: P 6

"I don't think the time has come to ring the alarm bells. The PM's appeal to the people makes sense. If prices go up, people will cut down on demand because if they don't, then prices will go up even more and demand will be affected," Lahiri told **TOI** in his first interview since taking charge on Friday. Lahiri suggested it was important to prioritise health and education expenditure over an open-ended oil subsidy, and backed govt's call to double customs duty on gold and silver.

> The issue is to make Niti Aayog more effective and more impactful. There's a lot to be done and it's a challenge because we give advice, we don't give money, and advice without money has to be really good for it to be caught on
>
>
>
> —Ashok Lahiri

Courts should not question collective religious beliefs: SC

Courts Have Narrow Jurisdiction On Religious Practices: SG

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New Delhi: A nine-judge Supreme Court bench on Wednesday appeared to be on the same page with the Union govt on the narrow ambit of judicial review of religious practices and said constitutional courts should be extremely cautious in questioning a denomination's collective religious beliefs.

This remark came from a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, A G Masih, P B Varale, R Mahadevan and J Bagchi when solicitor general Tushar Mehta said there was an immeasurable plurality of sects and sub-sects, with distinct religious practices and rituals, even though they were part of a denomination.

Every denomination, sect and sub-sect was entitled to practice its peculiar rituals and even if certain secular activities were intermingled with these religious practices, then in testing the validity of a law restricting the secular part of that religious activity, courts should lean towards protecting religious practices to maintain the identity of the denomination, sect or sub-sect, Mehta said.

Giving an illustration for his argument, the SG said, "The right to light a 'diya' (lamp) undoubtedly is a matter of religion. However, if in a particular denomination, it is mandatory to light 100 diyas every day, the question would be whether there can be a restriction by the state limiting the quantity of ghee to be purchased per day. Though the purchase of ghee is a secular activity, it is intrinsically linked with something which is a matter of religion and, therefore, cannot be interfered with by the state."

TOI

Justices Nagarathna and Sundresh said they were of the view that constitutional courts must not question the collective religious beliefs of followers of a denomination. The SC bench reserved its verdict on the reference relating to faith vs fundamental right tussle

Justices Nagarathna and Sundresh said they were of the view that constitutional courts must not question the collective religious beliefs of followers of a denomination. Mehta said reforms through legislation by a state must be on the constitutionally specified grounds — public order, morality and health.

The SG said state-enacted reforms through legislative route has much more acceptability compared to SC-declared law as the former is indirectly enacted by the people through their representatives, and the exercise involves multi-layer scrutiny in addition to seeking the views of experts from all walks of life connected with the issue.

When he narrated several laws bringing in social reforms, including the legislation against witch-hunting, Justice Bagchi said it was enacted on the directions of the Supreme Court. "This means the SC also has a constitutional responsibility to supplement the efforts of the state in bringing social reforms," the judge said.

"If a religious practice is challenged before the court and it is proved unambiguously as a social evil, then constitutional courts have a fundamental obligation to strike down such practices," Justice Bagchi said.

Mehta agreed but said the court could strike it down if it was proved to be against public order, morality and health but not when it turned out to be a purely religious practice without falling foul of the three constitutional caveats.

Responding to rationalists' stand advanced by senior advocate Sanjay Hegde that the right to freedom of conscience and right to freedom of religion let a person to "wake up a Hindu, have lunch as Muslim and got to sleep at night as a Christian", Mehta said if any person gets such a thought, he "needs psychiatric treatment". Advocate Mohd Nizamuddin termed this as the most absurd argument in the context of faith vs fundamental rights debate.

The bench reserved its verdict on the reference relating to faith vs fundamental right tussle that emerged from the controversial 2018 ruling of the SC in striking down Sabarimala Ayyappa temple's custom barring entry of women in the 10-50-year age group, which devotees said was to protect the purity of the 'Naishtik Brahmachari' attributes of the deity.

Juvenile tried as adult gets 20 yrs in jail for teen's rape

Agra: A special Pocso court in Aligarh has sentenced a 20-year-old man, who was a juvenile at the time of the crime, to 20 years' imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 13,000 for "abducting and raping a 16-year-old girl with learning difficulties", reports **Mohammad Dilshad**.

Justice Abhishek Kumar Bagaria observed that the convict was about 16 years, 8 months and 13 days old at the time of the crime. "However, considering his mature understanding, his ability to comprehend the nature and consequences of his actions, and the gravity of the offence, the court tried him as an adult instead of before the Juvenile Justice Board," additional district govt counsel (ADGC) Mahesh Singh said.

The crime occurred on Sept 14, 2022, when the girl was abducted, taken to a field and sexually assaulted.

During the trial, the survivor told the court, "I had gone to the fields to relieve myself. He met me on the way. He forcibly took my hand, led me to a paddy field, where he raped me and knocked me unconscious. I was still partially conscious when I reached a neighbouring village. Some people there asked for my name and address, and informed my father."

Forest sleuths foil nefarious 'supari' on Ch'garh tiger, nab 7

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Raipur: A contract to kill a tiger, poison flowing through forest streams, and a cross-border network moving quietly under the canopy—the script had all the making of a calculated wildlife hit. Inside Chhattisgarh's Udanti-Sitanadi tiger reserve, poachers from neighbouring Odisha had set the stage for a deadly strike targeting the big cat.

What they did not foresee was that the forest department was already tracking their moves. Acting on intelligence input, anti-poaching teams set up camps along the Odisha border, watching suspect trails and waiting for the operation to surface. Days later, seven accused were picked up, six of them caught allegedly poisoning a forest stream—a method that can wipe out entire chains of wildlife, not just a single tiger.

Investigators say, a 'supari' for tiger skin had allegedly been issued, local operatives activated, and a plan drawn to contaminate shared water sources before finishing the kill using bows and arrows.

"The first clue came almost incidentally—the detention of an elderly caught with deer antlers. During interrogation, he revealed the larger conspiracy—naming handlers and detailing the plan to poison water sources frequented by tigers and elephants in the forest.

What followed was unravelling of a network that led teams deep into Odisha's Katfad and Kusumkhunta villages, and back into the forests where the final act was underway," said Varun Jain, the tiger reserve's deputy director.

On May 10, six more poachers were caught red-handed near Ranibarjhola nullah inside the reserve, allegedly lacing the stream with toxic substances. Officials recovered poison vials along with dead fish and crabs.

All seven accused, residents of Katfad in Nuapada district, were produced before a court in Rajim and remanded to 14 days of judicial custody. Investigators believe more members of the network are still at large.

"The intent was not incidental hunting but a coordinated kill using poisoning—one of the most dangerous methods in forest ecosystems," an officer said.

Loco pilots avert collision with 6 lions

Rajkot: Prompt action by a train crew saved the lives of a pride of six Asiatic lions resting on railway tracks in Junagadh–Visavadar section on Tuesday, reports **Nimesh Khakhariya**. "The pilots applied emergency brakes and halted the train, saving all six lions. The crew informed train manager Lalan Kumar, and a forest department tracker subsequently drove the animals off the tracks," the railways said in a statement.

The Bhavnagar division has seen success through coordinated efforts with the forest department in averting collision with lions. In 2024-25 financial year, 159 lions were saved from accidents, followed by 129 in 2025-26. In the current financial year, 11 lions have been saved since April.

2 contract killers shot in legs, held

Patna: Two sharpshooters, wanted in several murder cases, sustained gunshot wounds in the legs in retaliatory firing when they allegedly tried to escape police during an arms recovery op in Patna's Bihta on Wednesday morning. Police later arrested both the contract killers. The arrested are Awadhesh Sao alias Videshiya and Pappu Rai, along with their accomplice Deepak Kumar. TNN

Bootlegger flees, cops in dry Guj name bike in FIR

Ahmedabad: In dry Gujarat, where bootleggers often outrun the law, police in Ahmedabad's Sarkhej managed to ensure at least one 'accused' stayed back at the crime scene — a motorcycle, reports **Ashish Chauhan**.

During a police raid on Sunday at a liquor distillation unit operating in the Sabarmati riverbed near old Vanzar village, a bootlegger escaped and vanished into thick bushes, leaving behind his motorcycle. While the suspect gave the cops a slip, they registered a prohibition offence against the bike.

According to the FIR filed by assistant constable Kanaksinh Lakhdhirsinh, the police team went to the site based on a tip-off. They saw a man sitting on the motorcycle near an operational liquor furnace. Before the officers could catch him, he bolted, leaving the motorcycle to face the consequences.

The FIR named the 'Black Hero Splendor motorcycle with red stripes' as an 'accused'. "It has been observed that when an accused person is on the run, some police stations just list whatever they can find as the accused. It just shows their laziness and lackadaisical attitude," a police source said.

Oldest & 'most authentic' portrait of Rani Jhansi turns up in MP archives

Vinita Chaturvedi | TNN

Bhopal: For decades, it lay quietly inside the archives of MP's Datia Museum—a fading royal portrait mounted on ancient paper, its gold dust still glinting under the light. Experts now believe the artwork is the oldest surviving contemporary depiction of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi.

The painting surfaced during archival work under the Gyan Bharatam Abhiyan after archaeology commissioner Madankumar Nagargoje—a former Datia collector—discussed the museum's little-known Maratha paintings with current Datia collector Swapnil Wankhede and proposed bringing them under the conservation programme.

What followed was an intensive examination of the relic by archives expert and Gyan Bharatam mission nodal officer Nilesh Lokhande, archaeologist Wasim Khan and Datia Museum deputy director P C Mahobiya.

"Use of natural pigments, extensive use of gold, and intricate detailing that was the hallmark of Datia's Bundela painters and detailed study guided us towards the conclusion that the portrait was definitely that of Rani Lakshmibai, dating around 1853. It gave us goosebumps," Lokhande said.

The portrait of Rani Lakshmibai found in MP's Datia Museum shows her on horseback during a temple procession

"The portrait shows Lakshmibai in elaborate Maratha attire, wearing a jewelled 'kalagi' (crown) and riding a richly ornamented Arabian horse during what appears to be a temple procession. Maratha soldiers walk behind her beneath a ceremonial peacock 'chavar' (fly-whisk)," he added.

Though part of the artwork is damaged, experts believe the partially visible cap behind the queen belongs to her adopted son, Damodar Rao. Archeologist Wasim, a direct descendant of Lakshmibai's ADCs Kasim Khan and Gul Mohammad, believes the work was "likely commissioned during celebrations surrounding Damodar Rao's adoption—the event that challenged the British Doctrine of Lapse".

"The procession shows a happy queen on a temple visit," Wasim said. "After Jhansi fell, British forces looted the palace and there was bloodshed everywhere. Historical records mention that cleaners from Datia were later sent to Jhansi. Possibly, the painting hanging inside the palace found its way to Datia at that time and finally to the archives." Mahobiya said the painting remained preserved in the museum since 1986, when Maharaja Kishan Singh Ju Dev, then MP from Datia, donated royal documents and paintings during the museum's inauguration.